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AFTERMATH, COMMENTARY ON REJECTION OF BEAGLE DECISION

Newspapers Applaud Rejection

PY262048Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1316 GMT 26 Jan 78 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 26 Jan--The declaration nullifying the arbitration decision which gave the Picton, Lennox and Nueva islands to Chile is the subject to which the Buenos Aires morning papers dedicate their front pages and a large portion of today's issues. Only CRONICA has chosen to dedicate its lead headline to the winning of the national soccer championship by Independiente, consigning to a secondary headline the sovereignty question which concerns the public.

"Argentina Reasserts Its Sovereignty and Will Defend Its Rights in the Atlantic" says the full-page headline of LA OPINION when summarizing Wednesday's event, of which the highlights were the official communication nullifying the arbitration decision of the British Crown, and Chilean Gen Agustin Toro Davila's presence in Buenos Aires as the envoy from President Augusto Pinochet. The columnists of this paper assert that there is an atmosphere of optimism in official circles in Buenos Aires and Santiago, adding that the declaration of rejection, published yesterday and officially imparted to the Santiago government and international community, has lost all the dramatic overtones it might have had before the channel of direct negotiation was opened.

One of the headlines inside LA OPINION then says that "yesterday's events are a milestone in Argentine diplomatic history" and reports that two Argentine-Chilean commissions will be formed to give a verdict on the border problem in the far south within 210 days.

"A clear reassertion of our sovereignty" and "preservation of harmonious Argentine-Chilean coexistence" are the headlines over two pages in LA NACION; on one page the paper reproduces the message to the republic sent last night over radio and television by Foreign Minister Oscar Antonio Montes, and on the other page it stresses the need and possibility of an understanding between the two nations on the basis of bilateral discussions. The paper then agrees with its colleagues that the Chilean city of La Serena, 400 km north of Santiago, will probably be the place for the second meeting between Presidents Jorge Rafael Videla and Augusto Pinochet. The meeting will reportedly take place in about 10 days.

On the other hand, a commentary from the trans-Andean capital by the special correspondent of the same paper states serious doubts regarding the possibility that an agreement will result from future talks, whether at the summit meeting or on commission level. It is inferred from the article that signs of a Chilean disposition which is not very constructive throw shadows which are hardly promising over the near future.

The same assessment appears from reports gathered in Chile by the morning paper CLARIN. This paper reports that Chile is preparing its reply to Argentina which reportedly will be given today, and reveals that an unofficial spokesman for the Chilean Foreign Ministry has stated that the Santiago government will not accept the proposal from Casa Rosada [Government House in Buenos Aires] for bilateral negotiations on the whole complex of disagreements over jurisdiction which have appeared between the two countries.

The Chilean stand is based on the supposedly unappealable and final, as well as obligatory, nature of the arbitration decision, despite the fact that the decision was impaired by serious transgressions and juridical flaws inadmissible in law.

As against these prospects, the same paper publishes a summary of a United Press report which attributes to official Chilean circles the opinion that there is a good disposition on the part of both Chile and Argentina. All is going well. They are trying to write a final document which can be accepted by both sides as soon as possible. This was the mood found by United Press correspondents in government circles in Santiago after the Chilean ambassador in Buenos Aires had received from Foreign Minister Montes the declaration nullifying the arbitration decision.

Unofficial reports gathered by the Buenos Aires press also say that Chilean Ambassador Rene Rojas Galdames will leave for Santiago today to participate in the preparation for the new stage of talks which are reportedly about to begin.

In one of its pages CLARIN also prints statements by former President Arturo Frondizi, who now joins those supporting the decision of the military government to declare the arbitration decision to be void, and states his opinion that the situation will now have to be brought back, in general terms, to the earlier position (that is, the situation before the British Crown intervened) to negotiate a one-packet general agreement with Chile.

In conclusion, the newspaper LA PRENSA dedicates the whole front page of today's issue and sevral inner pages to the dispute with Chile, prints the full text of Foreign Minister Montes' speech, outlines the diplomatic activity regarding the problem and reports on the meeting held yesterday by the military junta to study the situation. The same paper also publishes a series of statements sent by private, scientific, academic, professional and labor organizations to the military junta, supporting its decision regarding the nullification of the arbitration decision and in defense of the territorial integrity of the republic.

UCR Approves Beagle Ruling

PY270227Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0121 GMT 27 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Jan--The Radical Civic Union [UCR] expressed its satisfaction tonight for the Argentine Government's decision to declare null and void the decision of the Britannic Crown on the Beagle Channel issue. The party's report also proposes that "the door should be left open for a peaceful and total solution" to our problem with our Chilean brothers."

Naval Chief's Comment

PY261822Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1410 GMT 26 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Bahia Blanca, 26 Jan--"Our country will not allow co-ownership in the southern Atlantic," asserted Vice Adm Antonio Vanek, chief of naval operations.

"The Argentine Armed Forces are not pacifist, but they are peaceful," he emphasized later on. "We are aggressive but not aggressors. This is why I fully believe that reason and law will triumph at a negotiating table which in the end will demonstrate that the guidelines drafted by the military junta are just and sensible."

Vanek indicated that talks with Chile are still possible, even after our government formulated its nullifying declaration yesterday. He said: "It is a question of two types of attitudes. The arbitration decision is rejected because it exceeds the limits of the problem upon which a decision had to be handed down, touching upon matters which, for Argentina, were not up for debate, and because instead of bringing the litigation to a conclusion it creates the opportunity for new ligitagion in a chain reaction which is totally unacceptable, becaus it harms undoubtable rights of ours. Instead, bilateral talks express the peaceful desire of the two countries to seek solutions to common problems. Not to do so would not be in Argentina's traditional style."

Asked whether there is a possibility that some world power may be interested in the Beagle Channel conflict, Vanek replied that he has no information regarding this. Nevertheless, he added: "If we take into account experience in other parts of the world, the Middle East for example, there is no doubt that when local areas of conflict are created, an unsuspected escalation may occur which is hardly ever restricted to the original area of conflict, and which allows some powers to assert their hegemonic ambitions by direct intervention."

Later, referring to the fact that the British press has used a hard line with Argentina and a soft one with Chile, Vanek indicated that he believed this attitude is a consequence of the independent attitude of the editors. He said: "Nevertheless, it is an undeniable fact which cannot be forgotten that we maintain an old conflict with Great Britain concerning the usurpation of our Malvinas Islands and that international politics is a system of actions and reactions which does not have watertight compartments."

Returning directly to the problem with Chile and the possibilities of an agreement, Vanek was asked about the limitations of the government's desire for reconcilation. He answered: "The three commanders in chief, in their role as members of the military junta, have set the limits of maneuvering and there is no possibility of overextending them. Argentina will not allow the geographical dismemberment of its territory, nor will it allow co-ownership of the southern Atlantic. The Atlantic is ours, just as the Pacific is Chilean."

Later on the high-ranking navy chief said that "it would be preposterous to even believe that there could be talks about any Chilean desire for sharing the eastern opening of the Magellan Strait." He indicated that he had not heard the rumor regarding this, but that he considered it absurd. Asked why Chile requested the presidential meetings 2 weeks ago, one of which has already taken place in Mendoza, Vanek answered:

"The Chilean position was not very flexible during the course of the previous negotiations. Therefore the Argentine Armed Forces, taking into account this inflexibility, carried out their duty of preparing to stop our rights from being attacked. At the same time, our country's public put internal disagreements to one side and showed a solid desire to defend our territory. This firm reaction by the population as a whole is, in itself, a dissuasive factor for anyone. And in addition, if we add the fact that Chile and Argentina have always had a fraternal link, it is easy to explain that sensible and mature conduct will prevail in the end.

Later on he emphasized that "as a high-ranking officer of the armed forces I know that the armed branch of the fatherland is always in a condition to carry out its duty. As commander of naval operations I can guarantee that all branches of the navy are ready to assume the role which they are ordered to carry out within their area of influence. During the past month, carrying out orders of the commander in chief of the navy issued in accordance with orders from the military junta, the navy--as the army and air force--has carried out preparedness exercises which clearly show our combat capability."

Finally, repeating that the Argentine Armed Forces are not pacifist but are peaceful, Vanek expressed his confidence that law and reason will triumph at the negotiating table. These remarks were published today in the newspaper LA NUEVA PROVINCIA.

Chilean Envoy Returns Home

PY270232Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0120 GMT 27 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Jan--It has been reported that Chilean ambassador to Argentina Rene Rojas Galdames left today for his country.

Although the diplomat refused to make any remarks, the objective of his trip is allegedly that of reporting to and receiving instructions from his government about the disagreements with Argentina regarding demarcation of the southern border.

Rojas also refused to report when is he going to return.

UK Informed of Beagle Rejection

PY251540Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1425 GMT 25 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Jan--Hugh Michael Carless, charge d'affaires of Great Britain to this country, stated after a meeting he held with Foreign Minister Oscar A. Montes that he had been handed a document containing the decision of the Argentine Government regarding the Beagle Channel arbitration.

The British diplomat talked with Foreign Minister Montes for 10 minutes, beginning at 1100, in the San Martin Palace.

He added that he would immediately report to the government of his country on the document he had received.

UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS FIRE ON LAN-CHILE OFFICE

PY261810Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1625 GMT 26 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Jan--Police sources reported here today that several shots were fired at the local LAN-Chile office by persons unknown riding in a car. The attack took place at approximately 0030 local time (0330 GMT) and the attackers used pistols and shotguns. They made several hits on the windows but did not cause any casualties.

BANZER REJECTS RIGHTIST LABEL, LOOKS AHEAD TO ELECTION

LD261651Y Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 21 Jan 78 p 8 LD

[Bengt Lindstrom La Paz interview with Bolivian President Hugo Banzer Suarez: "We Are Not Afraid of Women"]

[Text] La Paz, January--"If this were the government of another country, it would been called a leftist government."

Hugo Banzer Suarez seems to register our astonishment with pleased inner satisfaction.

He knows that the rest of the world regards him as a dictator. He knows that in some cases he is compared with his counterparts Pinochet, Stroessner, Videla and the other generals. He knows that there is violent criticism of his regime's oppression of dissidents and of the human rights violations. He knows that the eyes of the world are focused on Bolivia and the people on hunger strikes there for democratic rights.

And leaning forward in his black leather armchair, he says regretfully: "The people of Bolivia have unfortunately not had the opportunity to express freely their opinion in the way prescribed in the constitution of 11 years ago."

"Unfortunately"--the word comes so naturally to him. What he means is that he would so much have liked to but could not achieve democracy. He has been sort of forced to lead, together with his troops, a dictatorship. But now Bolivia is to be a democracy again, with elections on 9 July and with a program with many social features, he says.

Why this sudden decision? Is it possibly external pressure, mainly Carter who has acted as a means of pressure? He stroked his close-cropped hair and said: "The decision to hold elections is a sovereign Bolivian decision with no foreign influence whatever. In addition, Bolivia is not governed by an oppressive dictatorship but by a 'de facto' government, and the difference between these terms is considerable.

"One proof of this, which you can certainly also verify, is that there is freedom of the press in this country." He considers the hunger strikes, which were in progress when the interview took place, further proof of the Bolivian people's right to express their views and feelings. "What is most important--not only for the Bolivian Government but throughout the world--is to maintain general peace and the majority's right to calm. The Bolivian Government does this without allowing itself to be frightened by groups which consist mainly of women and children.

[Question] Why are there troops in the mining areas. Is it to supervise trade union and political activity? This is a question which Hugo Banzer visibly dislikes. He sits down, adjusts his light-gray tunic and says: "We have NO troops in the mining areas. There are no troops at the Siglo mine. They are a short distance away from there." "We have troops in all parts of the country. The armed forces belong to the nation. They do not belong to any particular groups. [paragraph continues]

According to the constitution the armed forces are to do three things:

"--Protect the country's sovereignty and territory,

"--Preserve internal law and order in the country,

"--Contribute to the socioeconomic development in the country. "That is why there are troops in the vicinity of the mines and not, as you say, to supervise trade union or political activity."

Why does he not want to be a presidential candidate? Is it in order to have the final words as supreme commander?

[Banzer] "The final word concerning Bolivia's future is what approximately 1.5 million Bolivians will have in July. As supreme commander I will appoint the person who is chosen in a general and free direct election as president of the republic." But why does he not run himself? He seems to be popular among the farmers, and General Pereda who is now the official candidate will only be regarded as Banzer's puppet, won't he?

He laughs loudly, and adjutant Borda, standing by the open fire nods approvingly. "The farms belong to the majority of the people of this country, and they have only been exploited to win votes at previous elections. But we care about them. We give them schools, sanitary installations, roads, industries and we have completed a land reform. When it was introduced it was merely a case of land distribution. In a short while illiteracy has fallen from 68 to 32 percent. We take a step at a time and bridge the gaps between the poor in the villages and the city-dwellers," the general says.

"In the cities we have built sports establishments, community centers and holiday camps. These did not exist under previous governments--not because they did not want them but because they did not have the money."

"As regards whether General Pereda is a puppet or not, I will only say that he has assisted in the work on a development program which my government is carrying out in several different places, and I hope that he will continue this work on the lines we have established. You cannot interrupt a development every fourth year merely because there is an election."

Gen Hugo Banzer, who seized power in a military coup and who has broken the Bolivian record in the art of remaining in power--nearly 7 years--thus wants to create a civilian government.

"I do not believe that a military government is better than a civilian one," he says. "The problem is that under certain circumstances, in young states, where civilian political leadership is lacking, where anarchy, chaos and disorder prevail, someone must assume responsibility for creating order and norms. And who is that?

"Well, it is not a sports club or a religious organization or a ladies club. It must be the most solid institution in the country. And the most solid organisations in the whole world are the armed forces, not the political parties. It is the armed forces which created the republic from the start."

[Question] What truth is there in the reports of extensive immigration of whites from South Africa and also of immigrants from Cambodia?

[Answer] These sort of rumors originate from groups which want to create an artificial internal conflict situation in Bolivia. My country holds all doors open for free immigration. If you knew of some things about the current situation in Cambodia, for example, then you could understand which groups are interested in disseminating this information.

[Question] Why did Bolivia not vote against Chile in the United Nations?

[Answer] Bolivia considers that as far as human rights violations are concerned there are few countries represented in the United Nations which are free and completely innocent. We do not believe that all the burden of guilt should be placed on a recourse of this sort.

MNR FIGURE TURNS DOWN POST OFFERED BY BANZER

PY262347Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 25 Jan 78 PY

[Text] (Oscar Barbery Justiniano), member of the National Revolutionary Movement's leadership, has been invited by President Banzer to take over the presidential secretariat left vacant by the resignation of Edwin Tapia Frontanilla.

(Barbery) did not accept the invitation and told the press that he had talked things over with President Banzer and they both ahd agréed that (Barbery) was more valuable as a leader of the National Revolutionary Movement. (Barbery) returned to Santa Cruz today.

PEREDA ASBUN TO SEEK POLITICAL 'GREAT ALLIANCE'

PY261333Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 25 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Presidential candidate Juan Pereda Asbun said to the news media that he will attempt to join all nationalistic forces into a great alliance. He did add, however, that it is early yet to speak of the parties or political groups which will make up this alliance. He also said that he is working on a government plan and an ideological proposal which will be submitted for the consideration of the people.

ELECTORAL COURT STUDYING COMMUNICATIONS EFFORT

PY270046Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 25 Jan 78 PY

[Excerpts] The National Electoral Court is working on the appropriate way to carry an educational campaign regarding the citizens' rights and duties in the electoral process to take place in July 1978. To this end, the Electoral Court will request the government, through the Interior Ministry, to authorize the use of space in state broadcasting media, including in native languages, so that the Bolivian citizen may become well aware of his civic duties. This was announced by Julio Mantilla, president of the Electoral Court.

The contact with social communications media will be on a permanent basis for better guidance of the task of the Electoral Court, Mantilla stated.

FORMER OFFICIAL CALLS FOR TRANSITIONAL REGIME

PY251652Y La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 21 Jan 78 p 9 PY

[Text] Santa Cruz, 20 Jan--Hernando Garcia Vespa, a former member of the present government, has proposed here the forming of a civilian-military transition government which would appeal for unity of the Bolivians "and would not intend to transform the armed forces into a political party."

Garcia maintains that there is a profound political crisis, but that the intention is to ignore this reality.

He says in a written statement issued to the newsmedia here: "No form of violence, either from above or from below, can be accepted. The nation stands above all."

According to Garcia--who held high posts in the first period of this government as a member of the Bolivian Socialist Falange [FBB]--it would be an error leading to unforeseeable results to attempt to maintain a government of one sector, without the genuine representation and participation of the people. Basing himself on such arguments, he believes that the time has come for a civilian-military government.

He states that he is in favor of a continuation of the democratizing process of the country, but he demands free elections "without any official candidate or any kind of pressure." Now that the general amnesty has been decreed, he believes that the time has also come for lifting the "unjust" ban on labor union and university student organizations.

He concludes by saying that great solutions and exemplary attitudes should come at the right time, neither before nor after the moment marked by history. He then asserts: "This is the time for us to install a regime of freedom."

BARRIENTISTS ISSUE STATEMENT ON GOALS

PY251555Y La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 22 Jan 78 p 31 PY

[Text of paid advertisement issued by the National Barrientist Unity [Unidad Nacional Barrientista--UNB]

[Text] The Battle Is for a New Democracy

Because of the dynamics of its development, Bolivia has entered a decisive stage in its history. We are in the process of creating a new democracy in which all Bolivian people will participate.

In carrying out its promises to the people, the armed forces government is taking the measures necessary to carry out the country's democratic constitutionalization plan. The political opening begun in November, 1977, the call to elections, the establishment of the electoral college, the general amnesty, the repeal of the union recess, the call to political parties for an agreement on national pacification, are all undeniable proof of the democratic and institutionalist leanings of the armed forces government. We should emphasize Gen Hugo Banzer Suarez's refusal of the presidential candidacy, a unique action which sets a valuable precedent for Bolivian democracy. This plan for an authentic democracy, through which the new Bolivia will emerge, places the country at the head of the Latin American political process.

In view of this, the positions of the various political factions are clearly defined. Democratization means the loss of the usual climate for action for extreme rightists and extreme leftists, since the extreme left, in trying to justify itself, searches for chaos, violence and backwardness while the extreme right uses dictatorship governments to serve its interests.

Neither of these factions is capable of surviving in a democracy, which is why they directly or indirectly oppose the country's constitutionalization. The events of the last few days are a reflection of the means used by these factions.

In view of the extremists' characteristic stand, the Barrientist Movement, along with all the other truly revolutionary nationalist factions, considers the most important objective of the Bolivian people to be to win the constitutionalization battle and to form strong and respected institutions.

For the Barrientist Movement, the main character in the Bolivian revolution is the people. Consequently, this is the reason why it struggles for conditions which would allow each person conscientiously to participate in the decision which will determine the future of the country.

In order to overcome its dependence and solve problems of exploitation, injustice, and underdevelopment, Bolivia needs to leave behind immaturity, desperation and disorder to begin a new national system which would allow it to get the most advantage from raw materials, savings, investment, technology and the extraordinary potential of Bolivian men.

Only an organized country, developing with clear principles and a conscientous discipline, can apply a just social policy and maintain its international relations with dignity and sovereignty.

Demands of Democracy

The degree of development of a people is the result of its own effort. Democracy is not a miracle, nor is it a gift. Democracy is won with ideas and attitudes which work systematically to perfect the society.

The situation which the country is now in demands actions from both government and people which will lead us toward the objectives we seek.

The government, because of its role as the basic structure of the state, has greater responsibility in the process. It should lead and direct the society's development. It has the unavoidable mission of guarding the country's institutionalization from all the threats to the exercise of popular sovereignty. Bolivia cannot go backward, nor can it fall into antinational and antidemocratic traps.

The political parties are confronted with an historic call which will define our very existence. This is the opportunity for us to show that we are capable of leading the community and of offering alternatives which can thrust our country toward development and freedom.

Internal and external conditions, the great events which affect all mankind, incidents which are characteristic of a phase of profound qualitative and general change, force political parties to review their concepts, organization, methods and procedures.

Bold generalizations, incomplete formulas, unilateral demands, and obstruction have less meaning than ever now that Bolivia is at the threshold of the 100th anniversary of the geographical landlock imposed on it.

The Barrientist Movement is emerging as a new alternative, ready to assume its role, to ideologically confront all those factions which claim the country's leadership, and clearly to assume its responsibilities along with the armed forces.

It is obvious that within the framework of a largely political phenomenon, the main responsibility falls to the government and to party organizations, but this does not exempt the country's other institutions and structures from fulfilling the obligations demanded by this historic moment.

The press, students, workers, professionals, the church, peasants, all sectors and levels of the country are involved in our national destiny. Their actions will determine the results of the democratic constitutionalization process.

Some groups and persons which have infiltrated these structures and institutions, and which are trying to disrupt the rationality with which we should organize the powers of the state, are not fooling anyone. The community knows what interests they serve and which methods they use.

Nationalist Unity To Conquer Democracy

Considering the social consequences of the political opening and the need to form a homogeneous, agile and efficient structure capable of leading the people to their maximum level of sociopolitical capabilities, the Barrientist Movement calls for the unity of all nationalist and revolutionary forces to further the cause of the Bolivian revolution through the fulfillment of the following tasks, among others:

1. Improvement of the agrarian reform by introducing the concept of collective property and shared work in agriculture, and adapting financing, technology, transportation and the market to the liberation of the peasant, who makes up 70 percent of the population.

2. Review of the organization, system and objectives of the public sector, with special attention to state companies. Repeal of the present feudal system in Bolivian Government Oil Deposits [YPFB], the Mining Corporation of Bolivia [COMIBOL], the Bolivian Development Corporation [CBF], and all the state's economic and financial entities.

3. Planning of foreign trade through a rational use of the country's foreign reserves.

4. Reorganization of economic, financial, monetary and fiscal systems to achieve a gradual distribution of wealth.

5. Rationalization of prices and wages.

6. Establishment of a government which would be the true agent of popular participation and structural changes.

7. Struggle against imperialism and dependence by means of popular unity, full development of the nation, and the use of all useful tactics to achieve national liberation.

8. Define human rights as the nation's right to confront the domination of the great powers over developing nations.

9. Full respect for union rights.

10. Education reform carried out with a humanist philisophy for the social liberation of the country's oppressed masses.

11. Defense of the family as the basic nucleus of society.

12. Restoration of Bolivia's maritime heritage.

13. Integration as a means to speed up national development.

Composition of the Nationalist Unity

In summary, the political instrument which should be established to further the cause of the Bolivian revolution and to confront antidemocratic subversion should be nationalist, revolutionary and popular.

The unity which we propose is in no way unrestricted. It concerns factions which belong to culture, history and future of the Bolivian people. It concerns the men and women who, inspired by contemporary humanism and Christian philosophy, are to build a new Bolivia.

In view of the country's interests, the doctrine and concepts of the Barrientist Movement, we firmly support the candidacy of Gen Juan Pereda Asbun as the best alternative under the present circumstances. Signed by the National Executive Committee, Eduardo S. Noda Pizarro, secretary general. Dated La Paz, 20 January, 1978.

FSB SETS NATIONAL CONVENTION FOR 20-22 FEB

PY251750Y Sucre Radio La Plata in Spanish 1630 GMT 25 Jan 78 PY

[Text] The Bolivian Socialist Falange [FSB] will elect its national chiefs and deputy chiefs at a special convention to be held in La Paz from 20 to 22 February. On the same occasion the candidates for president and vice president will be proclaimed. (Gilberto Siles) has stated that about 400 delegates from the whole country will attend the special FSB convention.

MNR DOCUMENT OUTLINES CONCEPT OF DEMOCRACY

PY252305Y La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 21 Jan 78 p 8 PY

[Excerpts] Leonidas Sanchez and Guillermo Jauregui Gauchalla have signed a National Revolutionary Movement [MNR] document in which they propose the cancellation of the military-peasant pact. They state that the armed forces have an implicit commitment with the entire Bolivian nation and not just one sector, "regardless of how large it is."

They state that to hold a real democratic election the government must not continue to endorse official candidancies, much less those of armed forces members.

The MNR supports the need of repealing the state of security law and the recess of labor organizations so that they may elect without restrictions or interventions their genuine representatives. Furthermore, the MNR leaders supporting the Victor Paz Estenssoro line demand the publication of the general amnesty decree and the elimination in all consulates of restrictions of visas for all Bolivians who wish to return to their country. They also propose respect for university autonomy and the f ll enforcement of the constitution. The document add: "After these proposals are fulfilled the presidential elections will have all the validity that the Bolivian people aspire to. We endorse the president's words when he said that with the banner of the new democracy we will definitely consolidate the Bolivia of the future, which will be achieved and which no one will be able to stop."

Roberto Jordan Pando refuted the organization of a MNR leadership headed by Ruben Julio Castro, Ciro Humboldt and Guillermo Fortun Sanjines. He noted that these are MNR groups which attended a convention in 1974 and which have now formed not only a board, but another party using the MNR abbreviation. He added that MNR institutionality has been sought and violated many times. He said that only the genuine MNR leadership is authorized to convoke a convention and enforce those agreements which are within the guidelines approved by that convention. He said that the only MNR which is institutionally recognized is that which has a political tradition and which has carried out a political struggle for 36 years, and not those precarious groups which were created and were helped by certain situations.

CREDIT OBTAINED FROM POLAND FOR MINING EQUIPMENT

PY192055Y La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 11 Jan 78 p 9 PY

[Text] The National Economy and Planning Council [CONEPLAN] reported yesterday that Poland has granted the Mining Bank a credit of $1 million for mining machinery. The state office has approved the contract signed by the Polish firm KOPEX and the Bolivian Mining Bank.

According to the contract, the Mining Bank is to pay 5 percent of the FOB value in cash within the next 60 days and should present letters of credit for 10 percent when shipping documents are presented. The interest on the credit is 6.5 percent on the remaining 85 percent of the FOB value. CONEPLAN reported that the Polish mining machinery and equipment is suitable for the conditions of Bolivian mining, particularly for those of the small mining sector.

The prices are also competitive and "they have mostly remained unchanged since last year." The Mining Bank will open a credit line for mining industrialists for purchasing the equipments. The National Mining Chamber has requested the Mining Bank to open promotional credits, "because only in this way we will be able to acquire the machinery," asserted spokesmen for that organization. They confirmed that during earlier operations of a similar type, machinery was sold to the small miners with "surcharges" and other increases which had raised the price of the equipment. They stated that the mining bank "should fulfill its mission of promoting small mining, without trying to earn large gains."

JORNAL VIEWS INCREASED U.S. DEFENSE SPENDING

PY262110Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 25 Jan 78 p 10 PY

[Editorial: "Planned Defense"]

[Text] President Carter has advanced two arguments to back up his proposal for increasing the defense budget: U.S. forces need to maintain a deterrent against surprise attacks and need to keep up with the Soviet military effort. Both of the arguments are too general and too lighweight to convince anyone that they prompted President Carter to pull down another of his electoral campaign banners, especially at this time when his first year in office is being evaluated in the light of his promises as presidential candidate.

However, to attach to this proposal the simple label of another presidential contradiction would be to detract from its importance, just as it would be to consider the proposal a gesture to Pentagon pressure, which is, by the way, relentless.

The truth is that through the somewhat frayed curtain of detente one can see several signs of the reappearance of an irreconcilable antagonism between the two large politico-military blocs into which the world is divided. The difference this time is that nobody could blame the U.S. administration for direct responsibility for the rising tension. This fact is perhaps the only visible triumph on the U.S. domestic front of the diplomatic strategy adopted by President Carter, who should find consolidation in it after the accusations of omissions and naivete thrown at him.

The African Horn, which is constantly in the news as a field in which Cuban and Soviet personnel are being increased, is the first real justification for Carter's defense budget proposal. And the undisguised encroachment of the communist parties upon some NATO countries' governments is the second.

If the Soviet Union manages to recover the position it once had in Somalia, it will control the Red Sea's southern gateway. With the exception of the U.S. base on Diego Garcia and the French base in Madagascar, all the eastern African coast is controlled by the Soviet fleet, which came to fill in the vacuum left there by the British Navy and the Portuguese naval force stationed in Mozambique. On the Atlantic coast the Soviet Union already has all that it wants. If nations on NATO's southwest flank--that is, Italy, Portugal and France--should admit the participation of communists in their government, the West will have to review all its military deployment, if there is still time.

The United States, however, cannot fail to realize that it will be called upon to fill in vacuums possibly created by less truthworthy allies or by governments which should come to adopt defense policies more in line with the ideals of detente and rapprochement.

GEISEL CALLS FOR STRONG SUPPORT FOR LAFTA

PA262213Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1438 GMT 26 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Montevideo, 26 Jan (AFP)--In a speech delivered here today, Brazilian President Ernesto Geisel vigorously defended LAFTA and urged the 11 members of the organization to join giving it new impetus. On the second day of his official visit to Uruguay, the Brazilian chief of state held his first formal talks with Uruguayan President Aparicio Mendez behind closed doors for over 1 hour.

After paying homage to the Baron of Rio Branco by laying a wreath at the foot of the monument to the Brazilian forefather, Geisel was received by LAFTA. After words of welcome by the Bolivian representative, Raul Lema Pelaez, president of the Executive Committee, the Brazilian chief of state deplored the "pessimistic attitude that we frequently adopt when we are confronted with an impending task."

Geisel said that "very often there has been a failure to recognize LAFTA's virtues of flexibility, ability to compromise and adaptability that allowed it to preserve the heritage of the victories which were threatened by the stagnation arising from the process of liberation." Fortunately, the Brazilian president said, today there apparently prevails a more realistic approach to LAFTA, one which does not underestimate the organization's achievements.

Geisel reaffirmed that his government favors the constructive approach of promoting diversification and expansion of trade. LAFTA, Geisel said, is a forum for enacting obligatory multilateral decisions that correspond to the need for shared benefits and reject the discriminatory practices that favor less developed countries.

Geisel said that the Brazilian Government believes in the need to persevere in this multifaceted cooperative effort, which began with tariff concessions and will one day serve as a model for fully satisfactory integration for the nations of the continent. "Brazil will help to safeguard this common enterprise and to give it new dimensions, whether through the work of our experts or by the faithful fulfillment of our commitments," Geisel said.

Geisel said that his country expects reciprocity as concerns a strict fulfillment of obligations acquired within the association, since, he warned, noncompliance on the part of some members could be an irresistible incentive for others to also fail to comply.

The future improvement of LAFTA, Geisel said, will depend on the zeal with which the organization's members study alternative short-term solutions to present difficulties and, once the new paths of a certain policy have been chosen, the members' willingness to travel these paths side by side. After noting the need to extend the transition period established by the protocol of Caracas "to liberate these tariffs from a too-meager deadline," the president expressed hope that LAFTA would receive a definitive and decisive stimulus in 1978.

2D ARMY CHIEF DISCLAIMS ARMY ROLE IN POLITICS

PY2700527 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 25 Jan 78 PY

[Excerpt] Sao Paulo--"We in the military cannot get involved in problems which have nothing to do with military affairs, because the unity of the army is beyond all personal or factional interests. What the army wants is to further Brazil's progress." This was said yesterday by Gen Dilermando Gomez Monteiro, during an impromptu celebration which his officers held in his honor on occasion of his second anniversary as 2d Army commander.

The general stated that "all those who have served under me have understood that authority is attained by exercising discipline along with sensitivity. Today I really feel like the head of a family. I have managed to convey the need to keep family bonds tight. The family is the basis of the nation and it is through family bonds that we practice the basic principles of human rights."

CONDITIONS ON MDB SUPPORT FOR MAGALHAES GIVEN

PY241325Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 24 Jan 78 PY

[Text] In Joao Pessoa, Paraiba State, MDB Deputy Humberto Lucena set down two conditions for the MDB to support ARENA Senator Jose de Magalhaes Pinto in his attempt to become president of the nation: a formal commitment on his part to redemocratize the country, and his victory at the ARENA national convention.

EXILED BRAZILIAN POLITICIANS SPEAK TO PRESS IN LISBON

LD252245Y Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 2000 GMT 25 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpts] Three prominent Brazilian politicians have given a news conference to the Portuguese press. Here is a report by Alexandre Sarmento:

The Brazilian politicians Leonel Brizzola, Miguel Arrais and Moniz Pereira have arrived in our country, and they gave a press conference in Lisbon this afternoon. After presenting an analysis of the current situation of several Brazilian leaders exiled in various European countries whom he intends to contact, and after talking about certain aspects of his own exile in Uruguay and the United States and Miguel Arrais's exile in Algeria, Leonel Brizzola made a special reference to his presence in Portugal:

[Brizzola--begin recording] the aim of our trip is to convey our thanks and gratitude to Portugal, its people and government, embodied in the person of Prime Minister Dr Mario Soares. At a critical moment when we were surprised by the withdrawal of political asylum in Uruguay, the Portuguese Government, through the initiative of many friends and Mario Soares himself, sent us a message of hospitality, welcome and generosity, by inviting us to come to Portugal and live here, if necessary. [end recording]

To a question put by a journalist on how the Brazilian people view General Ramalho Eanes's forthcoming visit to Brazil, Leonel Brizzola said:

[Brizzola--begin recording] For the Brazilian people it will be an event of great significance and importance. What I would like to see is President Eanes arriving there and contacting the Brazilian people, even if to do that he would have to disregard protocol. [end recording]

BRIEFS

OIL EQUIPMENT FOR IRAQ--Iraq is interested in purchasing oil industry machinery from Brazil as well as in establishing joint Brazilian-Iraqi companies to build this type of equipment in Iraq. After meeting with 'Abd al-Munin Hassan, vice minister of petroleum of Iraq, Brazilian Industry and Commerce Minister Calmon de Sa disclosed that Iraq was also interested in developing its capital goods industry in association with European and Brazilian companies. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Jan 78 p 24 PY]

ABI PRESIDENT ELECTED--Senator Danton Jobim, member of the Brazilian Democratic Movement [MDB], was elected today president of the Brazilian Press Association [ABI]. [Paris AFP in Spanish 0133 GMT 11 Jan 78 PY]

CARVAJAL REPLIES TO ARGENTINA'S BEAGLE REJECTION

PY261400Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1300 GMT 26 Jan 78 PY

[Presumed text of statement by Foreign Minister Carvajal at press conference in Santiago on 26 January--recorded]

[Text] On 25 January 1978, the Argentine Government issued a declaration in which it states its decision to reject the arbitration court decision approved by Her British Majesty on 18 April 1977 regarding the dispute over the Beagle Channel region.

In view of this, and representing the Chilean Government, I hereby state:

The [Court] decision was issued in strict accordance with the general arbitration treaty signed by Argentina and Chile in 1902 and in accordance with the arbitration commitment signed in 1971, which commits the good faith of the United Kingdom and of the republics of Chile and Argentina.

Based on these agreements, and after full participation for about 6 years in the arbitration process of the parties involved in the dispute, the court announced its decision solely on the controversies submitted by the two parties.

The court enforced and interpreted the 1881 treaty by express request of the parties involved, and in general conducted all procedures with the greatest guarantees of impartiality and correctness in accordance with the fundamental norms of procedure provided for by these same agreements and in accordance with the principles of proper legal practices.

The arbitration decision, in accordance with these agreements and relevant law, was legally binding from the moment of notification, which the arbitration court provided on 2 May 1977.

In addition, in accordance with the 1902 agreement, this decision cannot be appealed, and its fulfillment is entrusted to the honor of the two signatory nations.

Because of what has been mentioned, it is obvious that such a unilateral declaration as that issued by the Argentine Government is contrary to international law and to the treaties which unite Chile and Argentina.

It must be added that Argentina's judicial stand is so inconsistent that it has not been able to use the appeal for revision that has been open to both parties since the court announced its decision, and none of the reasons issued by Argentina is fitting or justifiable under the laws of nations.

Consequently, the unilateral decision issued by Argentina lacks all judicial effect regarding Her British Majesty's arbitration decision, which is unchanged as a mandatory and fully valid decision.

The Chilean Government reaffirms all the rights conferred on it by the supporting agreements and titles, which have been judicially confirmed by Her British Majesty's arbitration decision and are not subject to negotiation or questioning.

In addition, the Chilean Government reserves its rights regarding the actions it may exercise at the proper time in the proper international forums.

Today, the Chilean Government has submitted a letter to the Argentine Government through which it rejects the declaration as being contrary to international law and violating the treaties committing both nations.

In addition, this letter reaffirms Chile's rights.

Finally, the Chilean Government reiterates its permanent observance of legal norms, its strict support for a peaceful solution of all international controversies, and its traditional respect of (?existing) treaties.

[Madrid EFE in Spanish at 1400 GMT on 26 January carries a report on the above declaration which notes that "along with the declaration, the Foreign Ministry also released the official letter of reply to the Argentine Government, which was handed to the trans-Andean ambassador in Santiago. In it, in addition to reaffirming the judgments contained in the official declaration, 'definite rejection' is made of Argentina's 'unheard-of declaration of nullification,' pointing out that this rejection is based on 'elemental norms of international law.' It is also pointed out that the rights and sovereignty of Chile' in the territories and maritime areas of the southern region are based on unquestionable rights that stem from both the treaties binding the Republic of Chile and Argentina and the arbitration ruling that fully confirms and recognizes them.' In this letter, Chile announces that 'accordingly, we will continue to exercise those rights and this sovereignty.' In another paragraph, it rejects the Argentine proposal for establishing bilateral negotiations, which 'could never broach--as they have not broached in the past--matters that have already been settled by a ruling.' The only area for bilateral negotiations is that which concerns 'the limitation of maritime areas beyond what already has been settled through this ruling,' adds Chile's letter to Argentina. It also reiterates Chile's proposal to take the problem to the International Court of Justice, a mechanism that is established in the treaty on legal settlement of controversies signed by both countries in 1972. The letter concludes by expressing the hope that the government of Argentine 'will not evade this appeal to implement, in common agreement, the legal solution outlined in a treaty that emerged as consequence of a well-inspired Argentine proposal.'"]

CLANDESTINE WEAPONS SHOP, HIDEOUT DISCOVERED

PY261721Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 26 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Santiago--Investigations and security police officers have discovered a factory for small arms and machineguns and a clandestine press owned by the outlawed Socialist Party. During a surprise operation, they found a Tupamaro-style hideout located in the basement of a machineshop located at 895 Juarez St. At least four persons were detained at the machineshop and put at the disposal of the Military Court.

The hideout was built by Argentine and Uruguayan extremists who are allegedly Tupamaros. They used all the equipment which international extremists use. An assembled submachinegun and others which had to be assembled were found in a 15-square-meter room. Investigating officers confiscated a large amount of subversive documents, pamphlets, and periodicals of the outlawed Socialist Party dated November and December 1977. They also found publications of the vicariate of solidarity, printer's ink and everything that is needed for printing. The machineshop operated in an old four-room house with bathroom, patio and attic and all the machinery necessary for a shop of this nature. The installation was built by the outlawed Socialist Party in cooperation with the Movement of the Revolutionary Left and the Communist Party.

It was impossible to determine how many guns were manufactured in this clandestine shop, since they were distributed as soon as they were made.

SENATOR DENOUNCES U.S. DIPLOMAT'S 'INTERFERENCE'

PA270147Y Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 2330 GMT 26 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 26 Jan--The labor attache of the U.S. Embassy in Colombia has been criticized for undue interference in the country's domestic affairs. In a letter to Foreign Minister Indalecio Lievano Aguirre, Senator David Aljure asked for an investigation into the veracity of his charges. According to the letter, the diplomat reportedly interfered in the process of (?union unity) by the four labor federations and tried to hinder that process through improper pressure.

According to Senator Aljure's message to Foreign Minister Lievano Aguirre, the U.S. official reportedly asked for reports and details on the 14 September strike. This was described by the senator as undue interference in the country's domestic affairs. Colombia's dignity has been (?challenged) and the unfriendly and undue action of the Yankee diplomat disturbs the good relations between Colombia and the United States, [the Senator said]. Senator Aljure, a member of the National Opposition Union-National Popular Alliance-Independent Liberal Movement Coalition which supports the presidential candidacy of Julio Cesar Pernis, has asked for forceful action by the Foreign Ministry.

POLITICAL LEADER KIDNAPED IN META DEPARTMENT

PA220310Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 21 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Villavicencio, Colombia--Another person has been kidnaped in Meta Department. Political leader Gerardo Mancera Cespedez has been taken hostage. His relatives have neither denied nor confirmed the kidnaping which took place between 0600 and 0700 on the road to Casillas. The captors left a note for the relatives of the kidnaped man but they will not discuss the contents of the letter.

RELATIVES CONFIRM KIDNAPING OF WEALTHY BUSINESSMAN

PA191731Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1225 GMT 18 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Cali, Colombia, 17 Jan (EFE)--Relatives of wealthy Colombian businessman Carlos Materon Scarpeta confirmed last night that the businessman was kidnapped by unidentified persons as he was traveling from the town of Tulua to Bugalagrande.

The 76-year-old businessman was kidnaped on Tuesday, 10 January, but his kidnaping was not made public until today, when the secret police (F-2) began to investigate it. Materon Scarpeta's relatives did not reveal the amount of ransom being demanded by the kidnapers. They did say that at the time of the kidnaping, the businessman was accompanied by one of his sons, Alex Materon Hernandez. The youth was released by the abductors so that he could inform his relatives of the ransom demands.

FECODE DENOUNCES COURT DECISION ON TEACHERS' STATUTE

PA250331Y Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 2330 GMT 24 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 24 Jan--The special general assembly of the Colombian Teachers' Federation [FECODE] has decided to declare the country's teachers in a state of emergency in view of the fact that the teachers' statute is again in force.

FECODE President Edgar Dussan Calderon reports on the conclusions of the special assembly. [Dussan Calderon-begin recording] The declaration of the unconstitutionality of Decree 2608 which had (?suspended) the infamous teachers' statute issued by the current government is a serious blow to the [words indistinct] of Colombian Teachers obtained by the nationwide (?1977 strike). FECODE blames the national government, headed by the president of the republic, and his education minister for the grave situation which has been created. The education minister signed an agreement with our federation which called for the abrogation of (?decree) 128 and the promulgation of a new teachers' statute with the agreement of the teachers' representatives. The government did not keep its promise. It let the congressional sessions pass without [words indistinct]. FECODE believes that contrary to the reasons argued by the court [words indistinct] does have an effect on the country's public order situation because there will be no normality in education while such a law, contrary to the teachers' interest, is in force. Therefore, we maintain our demand that Decree 128 be abolished and that a new teachers' statute that has the approval of FECODE, the only spokesman of the nation's teachers, be promulgated. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the socialist bloc this afternoon issued a statement in support of the teachers and rejecting the recent Supreme Court decision which declared the teachers' statute constitutional. An excerpt of the statement issued by the socialist bloc which supports the candidacy of Socorro Rodriguez is read by a campaign official of the Workers' Socialist Union. [begin recording] The socialist candidates, workers [words indistinct] in view of the fact that the teachers' statute is again in force as a result of the supreme court decision declaring unconstitutional the decree which abrogated it. This places all the Colombian teachers again under the yoke of this ominous statute which so deeply restricts their political and union rights. The Colombian teachers [words indistinct] which they already defeated once, know that only through their mobilization will they achieve its abrogation. [end recording]

ELN EXPLODES BOMB IN UNIVERSITY RECTOR'S HOME

PA232334Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2134 GMT 23 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Bucaramanga, Colombia, 23 Jan--A Colombian guerrilla group today took credit for a bomb attack on the residence of the rector of the Santander Industrial University (UIS) in this city.

The explosion caused considerable damage to the home of rector Cecilia Reyes de Leon, who was at the university at the time of explosion.

In pamphlets distributed near the university, the pro-Castro National Liberation Army (ELN) took credit for the terrorist attack.

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON PERUVIAN BORDER ISSUE

PA261656Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 26 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Upon being asked his opinion regarding the statements made in Lima by the Peruvian foreign minister which were published today by several Ecuadorean newspapers, the Ecuadorean foreign relations minister said Ecuador and Peru have been holding preliminary talks to seek formulas which will result in a fair solution to the well-known Ecuadorean-Peruvian territorial problem. He said that as a result of the meeting of the two presidents in Washington at the signing of the new Panama Canal treaties, it was decided to begin the talks. According to the presidents' intention, the talks will include all bilateral affairs of political and historic interest, especially the two most sensitive and important ones.

From the beginning of this new relationship steps have been taken within the necessary preliminary stage. At this time, Ecuador is waiting for the Peruvian Foreign Ministry to inform it of its viewpoints before studying all the background material, a study in which it will be necessary to have a clear vision of the future, finding fair and realistic solutions which will create permanent bonds of solidarity and reciprocal cooperation between the two nations.

GOVERNMENT MINISTER LEAVES FOR U.S.

PA261632Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 26 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Ecuadorean Government Minister Col Bolivar Jarrin Cahuenas left today for the United States on government business, it was announced here officially. The trip was authorized by a supreme decree. According to the same sources, Colonel Jarrin Cahuenas will only go to Houston, Texas. Government Under Secretary Javier Manrique Trujillo will be acting government minister during Jarrin Cahuenas' absence.

UNITED FRONT DIVIDED OVER JOINT CANDIDATE

PA250324Y Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 0030 GMT 25 Jan 78 PA

[Text] A real struggle was unleashed within the Constitutionalist National Front last night and this morning. According to front sources, the 11 political parties and groups have split into supporters of Sixto Duran Ballen and supporters of Francisco Huerta Montalvo. Apparently Raul Clemente Huerta has already been dropped.

The front has agreed to meet again in Quito next Monday because it has been impossible to reach a united decision. Meanwhile, a five-member political commission will draft a minimum government plan and will try to end the split. The commission is composed of the directors of the traditional parties: Liberal Huerta Montalvo, Conservative Rodrigo Suarez Morales, Socialist Eduardo Morales, center-leftist Manuel Araujo and center-rightist Benjamin Teran Varea.

According to reports, one of the hardest fought points in last night's meeting was the decision on the front's internal structure and the process of passing resolutions. Several parties and groups held that the traditionals should have two votes and the parties only one.

CONSTITUTIONALIST NATIONAL FRONT FACES BREAKUP

PA261719Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 26 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The five political leaders entrusted by the Constitutionalist National Front to attempt to heal the divisions within the front are determined to resolve the most difficult electoral predicament of recent time, but the formula has not been found. The Constitutionalist National Front is divided into two irreconcilable parties: the group which is promoting the presidential candidacy of Quito Mayor Sixto Duran Ballen, and the group which wants a liberal to be nominated.

The front is split, said Manuel Araujo Hidalgo, representative of the center left in the political commission seeking an agreement. The deputy director of the Liberal Party, Daniel Alvarez Tenorio, who is from Esmeraldas, said his party may possibly withdraw from the coalition, adding: What role can we Liberals play in a political front in which a rightist candidate is being imposed?

It is believed that the front is breaking up as its members are not speaking the same language. A Quito afternoon daily said that the Liberal Party director himself is trying to form another coalition. But the candidacy of Sixto Duran Ballen looks irreversible due to the determination of his followers.

In ambiguous statements, the mayor of Quito said that he was following a policy of watchful waiting.

SPLIT DEVELOPS WITHIN REVOLUTIONARY NATIONALIST PARTY

PA251801Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 25 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The Revolutionary Nationalist Party headed by former President Carlos Julio Arosemena Monroy is breaking up. Last night, PNR leaders of Quito and Santo Domingo de los Colorados announced their decision to withdraw from the party.

Fausto Abad Zuniga, PNR regional director, told Radio Quito the following: [begin recording] In the name of the members of the PNR's northern regional board, the provincial board of Pichincha and the board of Santo Domingo de los Colorados, we announce our decision to withdraw from the party. Our decision is based on a calm and exhaustive analysis of the PNR's present situation and after the failure of our efforts to create an authentic political organization that would respond to the people's strongest aspirations. [end recording]

PDC LEADER RELEASED AFTER SERVING JAIL SENTENCE

PA251812Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 25 Jan 78 PA

[Text] One of the leaders who were arrested on the day of the referendum has been released. After serving an 8-day prison sentence, Mauricio Davalos Guevara of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], poised the question why political leaders who campaigned for the new constitution draft that was approved by the people on the day of the referendum were arrested while television channel 4 of Guayaquil, owned by Leon Febres Cordero, was allowed to carry out an endless campaign throughout that day for a nullification of votes. In addition, political leaders such as [name indistinct] Justo Montalvo, Calderon Munoz and others took the liberty of campaigning for the nullification of votes throughout that day and even while presiding over polling places.

Naturally, these persons were not arrested, while we, who campaigned for the new constitution draft, were arrested, Davalos said. This is a completely different treatment that the government will have to explain some day, he said.

In addition, he continued, it was inconceivable to see how Ecuador returned to pre-medieval practices during the 20th century. Davalos said: I believe that no defendant was ever absent from a trial during the inquisition. However, we were never summoned or served notice. We were not called to appear before the authority that was supposed to accuse us. We never learned of any trial or a sentence except when we heard about it through the press and radio stations, he added.

Davalos was asked: Apparently jail unites men. We have learned that a decision has been adopted to merge the PDC and the Progressive Conservative Party into a single party. Is this true?

He responded: Yes, that is true. The two parties have been discussing this possibility for some time. In effect, at this time we have decided to step up procedures--which were well advanced, as I have said--and certainly next week an official announcement will be made after the release of the leaders of the two parties who are in jail. Thus, he added, the country will witness the formation of a new, great party, which we hope will constitute a real democratic option for the country in the future.

LOCAL NEWSMEN ACCUSE IAPA OF PRESSURING PERU

PA262226Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1230 GMT 26 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 26 Jan (AFP)--The Inter-American Press Association [IAPA] was accused here of pressuring Peru "in a secret meeting" to take the socialized press out of the hands of its workers. The "revolutionary line" of the Peruvian Federation of Journalists (FPP)--another with the same name advocates a return to the situation prior to socialization--asserted that it was denouncing an oligarchic-imperialist conspiracy "directed by IAPA and the CIA" against the communications media.

IAPA met here on Sunday and Monday and several of its members are still in Peru, but only today was any official information on the meeting given. Apparently IAPA was unsuccessful in talking to President Francisco Morales Bermudez but was received by Gen Cesar Vinatea, minister and chief of the national information system.

The FPP accused IAPA of having connections with the CIA. It referred to an official U.S. document according to which EL MERCURIO of Santiago, Chile, had received $1,665,000 between 1969 and 1972 "to help overthrow the Allende regime." The FPP also said that "IAPA is the mouthpiece for imperialism's vindictiveness and war-like attacks on nations bordering ours." The FPP also announced that it supports "a symbolic halt of newspaper work on Thursday, 26 January," by the 18 members of the Federation of Latin American Newsmen (FELAP) in "repudiation of the murder of Nicaraguan newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro."

At the end of its meeting in Lima, IAPA said that freedom of the press in Peru has evolved favorably with the elimination of prior censorship of magazines, expressing hopes that "newspapers will be returned to their legitimate owners." It also expressed its disagreement with the UNESCO stand in regard to the information media. By coincidence, UNESCO Director Amadou Mahtar M'bow is now in Peru.

The IAPA also stated its reservations about the arrest of Venezuelan newsman Jorge Olavarria, director of RESUMEN magazine, and decided "to send a special commission to Caracas as soon as possible to investigate the case on the scene and report back as soon as possible." Accused by the socialized press of Peru of being a CIA organization, IAPA said here that it "rejects the intervention of espionage agencies, be they the CIA or KGB from the USSR or any other, in the operations of the communications media."

Lima turned out to be the scene of a debate between IAPA and UNESCO. On the one hand the former accused the latter of "threatening the communications media with government control." Amadou M'bow, who is on an official visit to Peru, for his part emphasized that he vigorously rejected this interpretation, as the communications media must be defined by each country "for their own use in furthering education, science and culture."

FOREIGN MINISTER WELCOMES VISIT BY IAPA MEMBERS

PA262239Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1617 GMT 26 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 26 Jan (AFP)--Jose de la Puente, Peruvian foreign affairs minister, said last night that the members of the Inter-American Press Association who held a private meeting here were able to see that there is a climate of press freedom in Peru.

At the close of their work on Sunday and Monday, the delegates reported that there has been a favorable shift toward press freedom in Peru following the elimination of prior censorship of independent magazines, and asked that the daily newspapers be returned to their rightful owners.

"It was good for the newspaper owners to have had the opportunity to observe the climate of press freedom in Peru and to read the criticisms appearing in some publications which are totally independent from the government," the foreign minister said. De la Puente added that he asked them to note that a weekly publication reported on seven events related to various sectors, "all of which were absolutely negative," even though they did not reflect the present reality.

"We hope that the visit of these newspaper owners was fruitful for them and that their discussions of problems have brought out in some way the fact that the ties between our government and the press are free of any restrictions," the foreign minister said in concluding.

POPULAR ACTION PARTY QUALIFIED FOR JUNE ELECTIONS

PA270222Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0040 GMT 27 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 26 Jan (AFP)--The Popular Action [AP] Party of former President Fernando Belaunde was today granted permission to participate in the 4 June elections for the constituent assembly. AP was the first party to present its registration request to the National Elections Jury and it is also the first party to be officially registered after 40,000 of the signatures that accompanied the request were found to be valid.

Oswaldo Corpancho, secretary general of the jury, said that the resolution on the registration of AP will be published on Sunday, any citizen may present legal objections within 10 days. If no objections are forthcoming or if the objections are rejected, AP, which obtained more than 200,000 signatures, will be fully qualified to participate in the elections.

Corpancho also said that the jury is continuing to verify the lists of signatures submitted by the other two parties that have sought registration: the National Workers and Peasant Front [Frente Nacional de Trabajadores y Campesinos] with 50,000 signatures and Christian Democracy with 70,000. In order to qualify as a political party, each movement needs to present 40,000 signatures and to have committees operating in 12 of the country's 23 departments.

BRIEFS

AEROFLOT LICENSE RENEWED--The government has renewed the operating license of the Soviet airline AEROFLOT to allow it to exploit regular international air transport flights carrying passengers, cargo and mail. The flights will use the following route: Moscow-Frankfurt-Lisbon-Santa Maria, Azores-Havana-Lima and return. The permit was renewed through a resolution which also indicates that AEROFLOT will use IL-62 planes with a capacity of up to (?160 passengers). The permit will expire on 22 November, 1978. [Text] [Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Jan 78 PY]

GEISEL MEETS WITH MENDEZ, VISITS LAFTA

PY2700032Y Montevideo Cadena de Oro del Interior in Spanish 1500 GMT 26 Jan 78 PY

[Excerpts] President Geisel and his committee arrived at the Presidential Residence at 0900. There he met privately for the first time with Uruguayan President Aparicio Mendez. The meeting lasted a little over 1 hour, and they discussed the details of the agreements which are about to be signed by both governments and the joint statement which will be signed tomorrow morning.

The Brazilian President and his committee later arrived at the headquarters of the Latin American Free Trade Association [LAFTA], located in a modern office building in Montevideo. There he attended a special meeting of LAFTA's leaders organized by the executive committee. The president of LAFTA's executive committee welcomed President Geisel and emphasized Brazil's importance in the organization because of the great contributions made to LAFTA projects by its technicians and diplomats.

During part of the speech delivered during the special session held in the conference room of LAFTA headquarters the president of the executive committee said: [begin recording]

We are thankful not only for the contributions of the brilliant diplomats, distinguished technicians and able negotiators who have left and who continue to leave their indelible mark on this association, and who with their presence in this room today exhibit a remarkable show of appreciation and support for all of us who offer our best efforts to the cause of integration. We are also thankful to those who have contributed, are contributing now and will surely continue to contribute to the common cause with material, human, and political resources, with their technological advances, with their experience and example in economic development and responsible leadership in foreign policy through the combination of realism and [word indistinct], which is necessary during our times and which is proof of its profound Latin American awareness. Undoubtedly, (?Your Excellency's) country has played and will in the future play a role of unique importance in the region's integration and economic development. [end recording]

The Brazilian President, Ernesto Geisel, then took the floor and described LAFTA as a regional melting pot for a communion of interests in which historic and political solidarity results in economic agreements. This is part of what the Brazilian president said: [begin recording]

I want to affirm that the Brazilian Government shares your optimistic view. (?I really feel) that LAFTA's great significance will favor diversification and expansion of trade. But LAFTA is not only a community of tariff concessions, it is the best instrument on which the real economic situation of the continent is based. It is the modern development of instruments and techniques which bring harmony to our trade. It is an effective system for payment. It is a set of reciprocal credits and agreements. It is an instrument for eliminating errors of liquidity. It is a mechanism for financing exports.

LAFTA represents the cooperation among our countries in the tariff and customs duty sectors; it is a system for trading and supplying agricultural and livestock products; it is an instrument for cooperation in transport, in banking interests [juros de bancos] and also in trading personnel for the good management of these activities.

The participation of our businessmen and the exercise of our integration have come to represent a regional awareness, a sharing of interests which, in addition to our historical links, now have an economic basis.

LAFTA is a forum of compulsory multilateral decisions which institutionalizes the need for mutual advantages and abolishes [sanciona] descriminatory guidelines and prevailing ideas against countries with relatively less economic development.

My government is fully convinced of the need to persevere in this multilateral form of cooperation which began with tariff concessions and which someday will find the [word indistinct] to reach our goal and a model of integration which would be fully satisfactory for the needs of our continent. [end recording]

We are now at the Chancery of the Brazilian Embassy where Gen Ernesto Geisel has just made some remarks to the Uruguayan, Brazilian and international press which is covering his visit to Montevideo. He made reference mostly to subjects concerning his visit to Uruguay. When asked by a Brazilian journalist about Brazilian domestic matters, President Geisel said he preferred not to discuss the subject since he was in Uruguayan territory.

He said the main purpose for his visit to Montevideo was to reciprocate the visit made by Uruguayan President Mendez to Brasilia.

The second and fundamental reason for his presence in the Uruguayan capital is linked to the need to revise and ratify the Yaguaron River and Merin Lake agreements which were signed during President Mendez' trip to the Brazilian capital.

President Geisel emphasized the importance of the Yaguaron River area projects because they will provide for the irrigation of about 25,000 acres of territory in Uruguay and in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, where there are rice plantations. He also said the (Centurion) and (Ferreira) dams will be of great importance.

Geisel also pointed out that, at this time, Brazil has no intention of implementing an expansionist policy. He said this in answer to a question referring to the fact that Brazilians are buying land in the border areas near Uruguay and Paraguay. In our case, it is in the Artigas, Rivera and Cerro Largo Departments.

President Geisel said Brazil's only concern now is to implement a policy to conquer its own very large territory.

The press conference, which was not scheduled on the official agenda, was held in a small room here at the embassy and announced only minutes before. There were many journalists in attendance and the president was accompanied by the Brazilian foreign minister.

BRIEFS

MEAT EXPORTED IN 1977--The National Meat Institute reported today that 139,001 tons of meat were exported during 1977, bringing in $122,576,000. [Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Jan 78 PY]

SATELLITE LINK WITH SPAIN--The International Radiotelephone Service has made available a Madrid international automatic exchange using a circuit via satellite, for telephone communications between Montevideo and Madrid or any other place in Spain or in other countries connected with this exchange. [Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Jan 78 PY]

U.S. COLUMNIST OFFERS TO MEDIATE NIEHOUS FREEDOM

PA261706Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 26 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Columnist Jack Anderson is offering to act as mediator to obtain William Niehous' freedom. Anderson said he tried to mediate 18 months ago, but the talks were interrupted.

ILLEGAL COLOMBIAN IMMIGRANTS SENT BACK

PA262215Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1403 GMT 26 Jan 78 PA

[Text] San Cristobal, Venezuela, 26 Jan (AFP)--Police sources reported here today that 400 Colombians carrying no personal documents were arrested in Venezuela's Andean region and returned immediately to their country. The sources stressed that the various agreements between the two countries point out that all Colombians wishing to work in Venezuela must have legal documents. This was not the case with these persons. According to private sources, over 1 million Colombians are now working in Venezuela.

INTERIOR MINISTER COMMENTS ON JUDICIAL BRANCH

PA112106Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 11 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Caracas--Interior Minister Octavio Lepage said in an interview with reporter Freddy Baptista that the activities of the judicial branch leave much to be desired. He made the statement when asked about the debate between the justice minister and the attorney general concerning the actions of some judges.

Minister Lepage also replied to statements made by Democratic Republican Union leader Dr Jovito Villalba, who reportedly said during a press interview that "we are in a country without a government." In this regard, the interior minister said: [begin recording] [word indistinct] would not say that this is a country without a government. He said that the basic institutions of democracy are not functioning properly. With due respect to Mr Villalba, I believe his opinion is evidently exaggerated. It is true, for example, that the activities of the judicial branch leave much to be desired. In fact, some members of the executive branch have been criticized for expressing that opinion. We recommend a more careful selection of the persons who are supposed to administer justice. [end recording]

The interior minister obviously criticizes the activities of the judicial branch in his statements. In this he agrees with Dr Jovito Villalba, who charged that the basic democratic institutions are not properly functioning. Such is the case concerning the Venezuelan municipal councils, Minister Lepage said, and added: [begin recording] The functioning of many municipal councils such as, for example, the dramatic case of the Sucre District municipal council, which [words indistinct]. It is not efficient. [end recording]

LEFTIST PARTIES ISSUE UNITY STATEMENT

PA270149Y Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 26 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The independent leftist leaders held a news conference today to issue a statement in which they express their full backing for the search for a single leftist candidate.

The document is signed by, among others, Miguel Otero Silva, Domingo (Poncino) Masa Zavala, Rafael Pisani, Miguel Acosta Zaines, Luis Landers, Jose Herrera Oropeza and Hector Malava Mata. The signers of the statement support the talks which have been initiated by the Movement for Socialism [MAS], People's Electoral Movement [MEP], Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR] and the Communist Party of Venezuela.

Encouraged by faith and unity, we urge the revolutionary parties to intensify the process of rapprochment until it culminates in a powerful socialist unity, which is expected and demanded by the national majority, says the statement.

STUDENT DEMONSTRATION LEADS TO VIOLENCE

PA250427Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0044 GMT 25 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpts] Caracas, 24 Jan (EFE)--The president of the Federation of University Centers of Caracas today blamed several anarchic groups for the violence which erupted during the student demonstration held to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Venezuelan democracy. Regarding this, Eduardo Semtein warned that his organization will not allow incidents of this kind to distort and harm the student movement's image.

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the overthrow of Gen Marcos Perez Jimenez' regime yesterday, the students organized a march in downtown Caracas, which soon became violent when several extreme leftist groups moved ahead of the demonstrators and began throwing stones and other objects.

As the youths were arriving at the Plaza del Venezolano, where several persons representing the various political tendencies were to deliver speeches, two persons carrying Molotov cocktails and trying to promote disorders were discovered. Later, during the disturbances, three home-made Molotov cocktails exploded. Nobody was injured by the explosions elicited a natural alarm and caused numerous persons to flee. Sticks and stones were wielded and several cans of spray paint were used to write slogans.

Numerous teenagers--since most of the demonstrators were high school students--wrote on the walls such slogans as: "The right to study is obtained by fighting" or "we do not vote because there are no hospitals," while others with their faces covered by handkerchiefs stoned store windows. Amid the reigning confusion, the students managed to identify two policemen dressed as civilians who on several occasions had to flee. After being hit by several stones, the policemen in uniform, who were trying to control the situation and were rerouting all vehicles, finally intervened with clubs and teargas and fired shots in the air.

Meanwhile, confusion reigned for 30 minutes in front of the Judician Technical Police headquarters. While some accused the police of irresponsibility, others hoisted a Cuban flag and a third group, made up of student leaders, kept trying to placate the crowd. No one was injured but several persons were clubbed and 10 others were arrested under charges of provoking the incidents. Their identities have not yet been disclosed.

CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN MEXICO

FL261745Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City--Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca arrived in this capital last night at the head of a delegation that will make an official 3-day visit to Mexico. The Cuban foreign minister was received at the Mexican capital's International Airport by his Mexican counterpart Santiago Roel Garcia and the socialist countries' ambassadors accredited to Mexico.

Malmierca will participate in the installation of the intergovernmental mixed commission that will assess all aspects of political, economic and cultural relations between the two nations. The visitor today will meet with Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo at the National Palace and will lay a floral wreath at the independence monument. Malmierca also will participate in an activity organized by the Foreign Relations Secretariat marking the 125th anniversary of the birth of Jose Marti.

Malmierca, speaking at a news conference upon arrival, stressed the importance of the mixed commission which, at the proposal of Mexico, will assess the development of relations between the two nations in all fields for the purpose of seeking more active and flexible mechanisms for mutual benefit. He indicated that Cuban and Mexican officials have held preliminary talks on various aspects of cooperation and these talks have paved the way for the initiation now of final discussions for an agreement.

Malmierca said that trade relations between the two nations have been limited since there are many fields to be explored, including the industrial one.

FINLAND WANTS TO BUY MEXICAN OIL

FL262114Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2108 GMT 26 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 26 Jan (ANSA-INFORMEX)--Ulf Sundqvist, secretary general of the ruling Finnish Social Democratic Party and leader of the Finnish Legislature, has expressed the Helsinki Government's interest in purchasing Mexican oil. The political leader has arrived in this capital heading a congressional delegation whose primary mission is to expand trade ties between Finland and several Latin American countries. He emphasized that in exchange for the oil, Finalnd would be willing to contribute to development of the Mexican petrochemical industry.

SOUTH KOREA SEEKS TO EXPAND RELATIONS

FL262117Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2112 GMT 26 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 26 Jan (ANSA-INFORMEX)--A South Korean Congressional Delegation headed by Deputy Chong Chul-chim has arrived here to "expand diplomatic, cultural and economic relations with Mexico. Chong Chul-chim explained that the South Korean delegation consists of seven persons who will hold meetings with Mexican legislators.

TREATY NEGOTIATOR LOPEZ GUEVARA SPEAKS AT SEMINAR

PA201416Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 19 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The possibility of adding a security protocol to the Panamanian-U.S. treaties on the Panama Canal was analyzed during a seminar on foreign relations held at the University of Panama this afternoon. Addressing the seminar, Panamanian negotiator Carlos Lopez Guevara noted that U.S. military spokesmen have said that the canal has lost its strategic military importance.

Lopez Guevara said that the important thing is the use and not who is the owner of the canal, noting that the permanent opening is what guarantees the interoceanic passage. [sentence as heard]. He said that the negotiating process has not concluded and efforts continue to obtain the inclusion of the security protocol and the subscription of the maximum number of nations possible. He said that during the Panamanian Chief of Government's tour through Europe and the Middle East, Torrijos saw that many countries had studied the neutrality protocol in order to subscribe to it. Lopez Guevara added that the multinational subscription to the protocol has priority. He said that at the end of the negotiations the Pentagon had supported the treaties, nevertheless, an opposition group has stated that the military men are only carrying out orders because the U.S. President is the Commander in Chief of the U.S. Armed Forces. Lopez Guevara said that if the U.S. Senate rejects the treaties, the active forces [fuerzas vivas] would be activated in Panama.

FEP ISSUES MANIFESTO EXCORIATING FORMER POLITICIANS

PA231933Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 20 Jan 78 p 12 PA

["Manifesto to the Country" issued by the Federation of Panamanian Students on 19 January]

[Text] On 19 January, a meeting of the National Student Movement was held at the university campus. It was convened by the glorious Federation of Panamanian Students [FEP] for the purpose of discussing the present political situation and the new tasks to be undertaken in the struggle being waged by all our people for the elimination of the colonialist enclave. This national meeting reached the following conclusions:

Following the culmination of the negotiating process and the signing of the treaties, a new political situation was created. On the one hand, all patriotic Panamanian forces have maintained their joint effort to achieve, by peaceful means, ratification by the U.S. Senate of the documents as they now stand, as signed on 7 September by leaders of the two nations and submitted to a national plebiscite in our country.

This position, held by the majority of our people, is based on the principle of waging a permanent struggle to definitively eliminate the U.S. colonialist presence and develop the possibilities of deepening the economic independence and national liberation, without which there cannot be the true political independence that would permit our people to achieve the levels of development and democracy from which they were barred during the entire history of oligarchic governments.

The present governing circles of the imperialists cannot reject the just demands of the Panamanian nation, since they realize that if ratification is not forthcoming, not just Panama but the entire Latin American continent will rise up in a great liberating holocaust.

The unforeseeable consequences, as the U.S. analysts like to term this phenomenon, would transform the entire panorama and the present goals of the Carter administration, which are designed to postpone at all costs a loss of U.S. hegemony on the continent.

However, despite the pious and mawkish new face taken on by the U.S. Government --because of its responsibilities as the international gendarme of the system of oppression and vassalage--it is subjecting our country to a veritable hurricane of pressure and blackmail of every kind in order to prevent Panama from continuing along the path of national liberation and economic independence. Far from being lessened, the strategic importance of the U.S. complex established in the Canal Zone is increasing to the extent that the general crisis of imperialism is worsening.

The United States does not wish to compromise its hegemony and control over this region. Panama, however, is a spiny thorn and a dangerous example for its pretensions. Consequently, the scandalous amount of pressure exerted on our country seeks to isolate and weaken this liberating example so that it may later be definitely eliminated. For this reason, the Carter administration is demanding national guarantees which our patriotic forces are not willing to give, since this would lower the historic banners of struggle for which so many hundreds of Panamanians have been sacrificed. Taking advantage of the period of transition between the signing and the ratification of the treaties, the imperialists seek by means of external pressure exercised by all their services to prevent the deepening of the revolutionary process and to ensure themselves of a domestic ally that is sufficiently strong and united so as to save them the bother of direct intervention.

While the arsenal of U.S. diplomacy is being brought to bear, in its guise of the moment, the so-called human rights campaign within our country is calling on its traditional allies and the most backward forces--those which fear that a deepening of the liberating process will affect their privileges and their sacred interests--to exert greater pressure on the leadership of this process. In the face of this concentration of force, it is obvious that patriots must cast off their burdens and reject any adventure that might lead us to fight on the grounds which the historic enemies of the people have chosen to strike their great blow against the liberating process.

The present state of affairs, which is advantageous for certain political forces, is being utilized to produce confusion among the people and to carry out underhanded attempts to eliminate the liberating process. These plans will not stop at political crimes or the assassination of General Torrijos, the principal figure of this process. Using such slogans as "the democratic summer," "the democratic opening," and "the return to civilian government," the old cadres of the oligarchy and the traditional political parties attempt to recover the initiative which they lost 10 years ago.

As they exhaust their demagogic arsenal these self-styled "paladins of honesty and democracy" are revealing their true intention: TO RECOVER POLITICAL POWER. They are trying to convince our people that the past was better than the present and that they represent a guaranteed future of order and welfare. Basically, this false argument reflects the deep disdain in which they are still held by the people, who remain silent but never forgetful. To what democracy are they referring? What liberties did they give to the national majorities throughout their republican misgovernment? What democratic rights did they offer the people to organize, to participate in their take-turns government, to improve the lot of the people? NONE. Only the right to vote every 4 years for a candidate who was a stranger imposed by these forces themselves, while the rest of the people was supposed to be content to ruminate on its own ignorance, exploitation, hunger and the desperation of an uncertain future.

What was these forces' historical conduct in the face of our country's colonial problem? It was that of surrender and complicity--so much so that on this 9 January they were silent; so much so that even in their talks with the touring senators they condemned the commemorative acts [on 9 January] as irrational. What democratic rights do they demand? It is true that they lost total control over political power, but they still have their economic power intact and, with the complicity of several government officials, they have become still wealthier. They have intensified their exploitation of our people by demanding enforcement of Law No 95, the breaking up of the peasant settlements, an end to educational reform and, most importantly, greater impunity to continue to unabashedly profit from the work of the mass of the people. For 10 years they have remained politically silent because the fewer risks they take, the more profit they can make. However, in view of the approval of the treaty and the potential wealth that will revert to the Panamanian administration, they now want to regain power and, thus, are trying to foster divisions among the people so as to present themselves as possible successors and to put themselves in a position to enjoy those riches themselves. Nevertheless, a realistic private business group has found a more honorable course of action and, setting aside their ambitions, are demanding that the zone which has been under U.S. control until now be respected as a national property.

They have reduced the democratic ideal to their own right to regain political power. If they are against this [revolutionary] process which does exactly the opposite of what the oligarchic administrations did, why do they not pose a better alternative to the people? Why do they not add to the list of their democratic demands the repeal of Law No 95, the need for land reform, the redistribution of income, the strengthening of the collective and state-owned means of production and state control over all the resources and benefits that will revert to Panama in the Canal Zone in order to chart a program to end unemployment, hunger, disease and ignorance?

Why are they now calling for a civilian government, for the National Guard to return to its garrisons, for the need for the National Guard to be apolitical and limit itself to defending the constitution? They are doing so because this National Guard, which was never apolitical, now no longer serves their interests.

It is no longer their repressive corps and no longer carries out, upon orders from the oligarchy, widespread massacres against students or the people in order to put down their desire for freedom and democracy. These forces have evolved and, with General Torrijos as the leader, have assumed a leadership role in the struggle for liberation. It is obvious that underlying those demands is the profound hatred the oligarchy harbors against the forces that were historically ready to safeguard the oligarchy's interests, the same forces that on 11 October 1968 shook the oligarchy's grip.

Why did these forces keep silent for 10 years and why are they now sensationally appearing in the news media? For a decade they waited for the United States' services to liquidate the revolutionary process. Their degree of dependence is so great that the leaders of these traditional and electioneering parties needed foreign pressure and the human rights campaign to appear now as the "immaculate democrats." Where were they during the past 10 years when this national liberation experiment developed and survived with the sacrifice and the sweat of the people? It is precisely that dependence which prevents them from presenting a truly democratic alternative to the people.

They have simply dusted off from the wastebasket of history their old methods, rejuvenated by the U.S. endorsement of human rights. But the FEP has been and is clear in the face of these events. Neither the Panamanian youth and, much less, the Panamanian people have forgotten the past. We oppose the return of the electioneering parties.

The FEP assumes full responsibility for this position and states that its attitude does not respond to an opposition of the government to those parties but the opposition of all our people to these seditious and capitulating forces.

In line with this, the FEP expresses its opposition to any attempt to divide the Panamanian nation, to sidetrack us from our main struggle against imperialism and for national liberation and independence.

Our people have chosen a new path of participation in political life. The popular movement does not need middlemen to be present in the political struggle in order to deepen the process. The national majorities, which were never represented in those traditional parties, will not accept the return to the past of corrupt elections. The next elections will not mean "move over so that I can move in." These elections, following the first 6 years of experience of the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives, should serve to consolidate the patriotic representation of the people, to improve its structure as the masses' access to power and to convey to it the desires of the patriotic workers, peasants, students, professionals and businessmen who demand solutions to problems that were put off because of the negotiating process.

All of these reasons lead us to ask the youths, the people and all men who honor and love the fatherland for greater vigilance and militancy alongside their real representatives and, above all, greater defense of the liberation process and its leader, General Torrijos. In the face of the seditious campaign of the politicking forces, the FEP calls on the popular masses to establish their own political organizations in each province and to establish in each corregimiento permanent popular assemblies in defense of the liberation process and the rejection of the oligarchic past of political corruption.

The FEP solemnly commits itself to struggle alongside all the country's progressive and patriotic forces, without any sectarianism or vanguard selfishness, in the search for the mechanisms that will enable our people to establish, through their own forces, the political instruments to defend the achievements of this process, the achievements and benefits included in the Torrijos-Carter treaty--which by historical right belong to the popular masses--but also so that this defense will mean the intensification of the liberation struggle so that our people can overcome their underdevelopment and poverty.

[signed] The Federation of Panamanian Students

Panama City, 19 January 1978

'IMPERIALIST BLACKMAIL' TACTICS DENOUNCED

PA250421Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 24 Jan 78 PA

[Station Commentary: "National Unity, An Imperative Against Imperialist Blackmail"]

[Text] In the last 9 years, the struggle for the total decolonization of the Zone and the canal has been increased with a clearer and more patriotic determination despite the malignant maneuvers of the U.S. Government to prevent the culmination of this passage in the history of our national life.

During these last 9 years efforts were made through peaceful means to obtain a new treaty that would conform to the just aspirations of the Panamanian Government and people who approved the Torrijos-Carter treaties in the plebiscite held on 23 October 1977. These treaties, although far from being the most desirable, still leaving some colonialist vestiges, represent an advance in the struggle for the elimination of the U.S. colonial structure in a period of 25 years [as heard].

Respecting these treaties, our people fulfilled their part. Disregarding this, U.S. circles remain obstinate, forcing our people to endure a waiting period and creating situations opposed to the ratification of these documents by the U.S. Senate. The United States plans to use the ratification of the treaties as an instrument of blackmail in order to impose on Panama serious conditions on the path our nation must follow for its liberation. It is precisely this that has triggered a pilgrimage of U.S. senators to Panama and prevented up to now specific pronouncements on the part of the Senate on whether to ratify the treaties. Today, the most conservative sectors in the United States, in complicity with the antipatriotic Panamanian oligarchy, are carrying out activities designed to request in our country respect for human rights and the so-called democratic opening.

All these maneuvers, however, are well known and, regardless of how sincere and well meant they may appear, carry in fact the true essence of blackmail in an effort to frustrate the national liberation process and return to the status quo of the past, return in the democratic reopening to the old and dusty traditional oligarchic political parties and return to the past where the only right of our people was to choose every 4 years the candidate selected to represent the interests of the corrupted oligarchy.

Concerning human rights, we can say that the United States lacks moral authority to demand of our people the so-called respect of said rights. The entire world remembers the massacre carried out by the Yankee troops and planes at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the aggressions against the noble peoples of Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Korea, the financing of mercenaries and agents of the CIA to intervene in Angola and to destabilize the Chilean Government. They also financed the racist governments in southern Africa, imposed a criminal economic blockade on the people and government of Cuba and carried out the savage aggression against the Panamanian students and youths on 9 January 1964, whose only sin was the desire to see their flag flying in that part of our territory usurped by the United States. Our people shall never forget this aggression.

Such actions, carried out by the U.S. Government in order to subjugate other peoples, saps its forces, authority and prestige on the international scene. That is why we must carry out the tasks we have imposed on ourselves in this phase of our liberation struggle and maintain our monolithic unity so that the imperialist maneuvers may not succeed in the historic future of our fatherland.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON LAW NUMBER 95

Group Calls For Law's End

PA210251Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1733 GMT 20 Jan 78 PA

[Declaration of the Fourth National CNTP Congress on Law 95, proposed at the opening of the CNTP Congress at Justo Arosemena Legislative Palace in Panama City on 20 January 1978]

[Text] The Fourth Congress of the National Central of Panamanian Workers [CNTP] has considered and taken note of the serious harm that Law 95 has inflicted and continues to inflict on the Panamanian labor movement.

This law destructively aims at the very heart of organized labor. There exist no labor conquests, labor union structures or social demands that are not endangered by the whimsical, arbitrary or repressive action of [word indistinct] who believe that the success and solidity of their enterprise is directly related to the reprisals and denial of labor benefits and rights.

In the present stage of development in which our (?society) is controlled in practice and principle by the private sector, as the process of change occurs, it is not enough to say that labor laws exist. In the hands of management, they are converted into instruments of repression against the working class and the people [word indistinct].

Organized labor in Panama, as in other parts of the world, has changed from the simple propounding of economic and social demands to seeking effective participation, with regard to both public and private investment, in the planning, execution, and direction of the nation's economic life.

And this is not just mere whim or emotion. The working class has been and is now a decisive force or factor in the great effort to produce and create wealth for the nation, and as such, has the right to play an influential role in deciding on the destination of the goods and riches that daily emerge as a result of their energy and labor.

The revolutionary process led by Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera put into effect the 1972 Labor Code, which establishes progressive laws for labor federations and recognizes labor and social rights. But almost 5 years later it has given us a law, Law 95, which has put the working class in a serious position with respect to management, placed on a defensive stand, weakened organized labor and has discouraged the masses.

Organized labor has not withdrawn its support for the leader of the revolution, Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera, nor has it clashed on the streets and public squares with the revolution or its government, as domestic and international reaction expected would happen [words indistinct].

The working class has matured politically and has clearly and quickly become aware of the complexity of the process through which Panama is passing and the historical difficulties that arise in its path due to the changes in property, production, education, housing, health and international relations.

The working class has properly evaluated the struggle of the people, the process and the government against the colonial enclave represented by the canal and the so-called Canal Zone. As a result of this struggle, we Panamanians are one step from entering the so-called Canal Zone and integrating and [word indistinct] our sovereignty as the sovereigns we are. This is the first expression of the beginning of true national liberation and of a true anti-imperialist triumph.

We wish to clearly state that it will not be the nefarious Law 95 that will make us clash with or alienate us from the revolutionary process and its leader, Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera.

But as the central body for a large portion of organized labor, it is our historical and class duty to firmly combat the laws, measures, orders and pronouncements that constitute a step backward in the rights and conquests of the working class or delay its progress or welfare.

Law 95 is harmful to labor stability. Law 95 allows reprisals and labor union persecution. Law 95 attacks the existence and development of labor movements. Law 95 is a weapon loaded in favor of management. Law 95 leads to the muzzling of labor unions. Law 95 denies the right to work. Law 95 lends a hand to the oligarchy and imperialism. Law 95 torpedoes the national liberation movement. Law 95 should be abolished.

Ahumada Stresses Labor's Role

PA2021519 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1741 GMT 20 Jan 78 PA

[Speech by Labor and Social Welfare Minister Adolfo Ahumada at the opening of the Fourth CNTP Congress at Justo Arosemena Legislative Palace in Panama City--Live]

[Text] Comrade president of the congress, comrade members of the board of directors of the congress:

I am pleased to be here with you today at the inauguration of this Fourth Congress of the National Central of Panamanian Workers [CNTP]. This satisfaction stems from the fact that it is a powerful, militant, balanced and serious popular and labor organization of the Republic of Panama with an important role to play, not only in the present, but also in the future of the Panamanian nation, above all, in the tasks inherent to the deepening of our revolutionary process.

This satisfaction also stems from the fact that it permits me to be here today with you, with old strong leaders of the labor struggle, leaders whom I had an opportunity to meet personally during popular struggles at other times, when congresses such as this could not be held because of the persecution by the oligarchy and by its natural ally, U.S. imperialism.

I am equally pleased to greet the delegates from international labor movements who are today joining you in participation in the congress during this whole weekend.

I also am pleased to greet a new expression of the national labor movement: a cultural and recreational body which, beginning this year, includes the queen of the national labor movement and the respective princesses, whom I also have great pleasure in greeting since they demonstrate that elegance and beauty are not the sole prerogative of the oligarchy in Panama. [applause] likewise, I would like to greet the representatives of the diplomatic corps, and, above all, the representatives of the Republic of Cuba, with whose Ministry of Labor we maintain close and very fraternal and deep relations.

This congress is especially important because of its agenda. It is especially important because it has become necessary--and this was admitted by Secretary General Angel Gomez in his report, and also by the third congress--to insist on the fact that the strengthening of the labor movement's role in the nation's future economic and political development is going to be determined not by economic [economicista] concepts or solely by the solution of national problems but by the labor movement's degree of understanding of its role in decision making in the various stages of this nation's political process.

This means that, just as you have propounded--and this is tremendously serious and constitutes a great strike forward--what you are doing here today and what you are going to do during this weekend and in the course of this year and the next 2 years is simply to call the attention of the national labor movement and the entire country to the fact that regardless of the limitations, obstacles and difficulties which occur naturally in a process such as ours--a process in which the workers do not hold power, but a process in which the existence of labor organizations is acknowledged and labor unions are not repressed by the government--attempts are made to promote labor organizations, with the help of various forces that are emerging from diverse social classes. Ours is a nation where the main contradiction, even with the treaty already signed, still lies with imperialism, which means we live in a phase of national liberation. In these conditions, it is obvious that limitations and the difficulties must surrender to the labor movement's goals for development, as a consequence of its participation in the process.

What does this mean? It means, comrades, that still--and excuse me if this sounds a little bit like heresy--the fundamental role, which I believe increases daily--and even more under the present conditions and even more with the new faces that are now emerging--the fundamental role of the labor movement, the basic--all the rest is accessory or secondary, although it does not cease to be important--the main thing right now is the strengthening of the revolution. The rest of the objectives must play a secondary role, although the labor movement cannot, nor should it ever, forget its objectives. But basically, in our opinion, the main goal is the strengthening of the process. Because, with the elimination, destruction or disappearance of the process, there will not only be Law 95, there will also be Law 96, 97, 98 and 99. There will be no labor movement. We would not be gathered here today. Who knows where we will be because, in the hour of truth, reaction never forgives and there is going to be no difference, from the strictly class viewpoint, between the rope that is going to be used to hang a labor leader or the rope which reactionaries are going to use to hang, say, a minister of labor. [applause] It also means that this congress is going to contribute, as shown by the agenda, to the clarification of another problem. Some difficulties have arisen because of certain limitations and, on occasion, conceptual problems. We must continue struggling against these difficulties and limitations. The problem is in the subjective interpretation of conceptual problems. This is a problem for the labor movement, specifically of trade unions, in the country's productive process.

I have heard Angel Gomez here today make a most satisfactory presentation--and I know you agree with him--on the role of the Panamanian state in the productive process. We all agree in this respect. The Panamanian Constitution accepts the existence of private property over the means of production, as well as state property and social property, such as peasant settlements. But so far, apart from peasant sectors, social property has not received the promotion it needs on our part. That is why it is necessary to understand that the labor movement can contribute and participate as producers and not just as a supervised worker, developing productive activities owned by trade unions. I am not talking about the cooperatives which on some occasions have even become adversaries of or compete with labor leaders. What I am talking about has greater economic means; it can make loans to workers and others. I am not referring to the property of the trade union or disputes over the need to promote trade union enterprises. In addition to the role of the state, mixed enterprises, and social property enterprises such as the peasant settlement in the economy, there are also those aspects of social property belonging to the trade unions. These are things that have an impact on the forms of property in our society and also are going to contribute to the guaranteeing of the maintenance and deepening of the revolutionary process. For this reason I invite you, if you have the opportunity in this congress, to talk about this topic which I consider very important.

Another problem you are going to discuss is labor unity. This is an ideal that apparently we are never going to achieve in Panama.

Many efforts have been made, but nothing has been achieved. I am talking about something concrete, not theoretical. Some positive steps have been taken in this direction; for example, the organization of the National Workers Council [CONATO]. But lately I have been asking myself--and I do not mean the type of labor unity that can be obtained through an official decree in which all labor centrals are eliminated to form a single labor organization, because this is not feasible. It is absurd. It would be an action without meaning, lacking seriousness and which instead of solving the problem would make it worse.

But we must review the structure of CONATO's operation. Although we have cherished CONATO as the instrument of the workers' unity, in practice it has been shown, and I can vouch for it because I am up against these problems every day, that CONATO needs revising and the problem must be discussed again. [applause]

We must talk about it without fear. What are we going to do with CONATO? Are we going to continue it as it is? Do we need to change it or restructure it? Or did CONATO fulfill its role and another formula should be tried? The problem must be discussed because so far, in my opinion, it has not been an efficient instrument for the important things that must be done in Panama involving such a difficult and complex subject as labor unity.

All these things must be done within all the limitations faced by the labor movement. I know there are limitations of an individual nature. For example, you point to Law 95 as a significant limitation, which is basically a limitation of an individual nature. The collective limitation which can be derived from it refers to the problem of termination of a labor contract.

But we must continue despite these limitations. The labor movement cannot depend on the interpretation given at a particular time to a portion of the Labor Code regarding workers' rights. The legal system which is composed of a hierarchy--you know better than I do--cannot be deciding for the labor movement its nature and development, and must less in a labor organization as this, which historically has been since its foundation, as the Trade Unions Federation, the most persecuted in this country. They [antecedent unclear] were often afraid of it and many people did not want to join and were scared of its ideological principles and so forth. The CONATO has had to face so many compolicated things that I am sure that neither nature nor the legal system based on a transitory political system is going to stop its deepening process or its role in the revolutionary process, much less so with the latest difficulties.

I understand your problems in expalining to the people Law 95 issued by a revolutionary government. I understand your situation when you have to face the masses. The worst thing is there are additional problems such as the most recent rulings from the Supreme Court of Justice which is inventing a new concept regarding the right of habeas corpus that is unconstitutional [applause, slogans and shouting]. I recently have had to learn the law [laughter] because the Supreme Court of Justice is presenting an unfamiliar and odd law to me, ruling on purely administrative conflicts, trying to alleviate the situation. However, the decisions are always against the workers. This type of law I cannot understand; it is new to me. The bad thing is that this might have a political purpose which I dare not say. But these difficulties I hope do not create more problems for me.

These difficulties and these complications are bound to subside in face of a single fact. And I say and reiterate that the fundamental conflict here in this country is still that between the nation and imperialism.

Let us not forget this fact because we may become confused in the struggle to achieve our own goals as a sector of society, or a class, forgetting the existence of a much bigger issue, which is this fundamental contradiction, and this fundamental conflict will persist. This does not mean lowering our guard in face of problems. But this does mean not confusing one objective with another. [shouts]

We must contribute to this and we must continue to contribute. The CNTP has shown that it has sufficient capacity to go on contributing to the strengthening of that national unity.

In the moment of truth, whether we have a ratified treaty--which we believe we will and General Torrijos' optimism is not merely subjective; he knows what he is saying--or whether we do not have a ratified treaty, a dark hour for the republic, in case of any of the two eventualities, the unity and the strength of the trade union movement, as part of the national movement, is extremely important. [applause]

This is also understood by General Torrijos in the message he sent this morning to this grand congress through me. It is a brief but significant message, which I am going to read to you, stating previously that I am pleased to declare this congress formally inaugurated in the name of the national government and that I wish you great success in your deliberations. His message reads as follows:

Comrades of the CNTP: You are seasoned crewmen of the ship of national liberation which is now close to port. Whoever jumps ship during this final stretch perhaps will never have the opportunity to climb back aboard. We hope the people will be able to arrive without casualties at the dock of final freedom. Omar Torrijos Herrera.

Thank you.

Demonstrators Oppose Law 95

PA222242Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1839 GMT 22 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Panama City, 22 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Workers from various Panamanian labor organizations demonstrated here this morning protesting unemployment, the high cost of living and a law amending the Labor Code. The demonstrators, some 500 workers, claim that Law 95 of 1976, which amends the Labor Code, eliminates labor stability and benefits employers.

In the demonstration called by the "Panamanian Labor Confederation" the participants supported the "Piedras Picadas" workers who have been on strike for almost 8 month. This strike is believed to be one of the most important in Panamanian labor history. The demonstration, which assembled labor delegations from several parts of the country in the 5 May Plaza, marched through the main downtown streets to the National Guard General Command where they presented petitions to Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos.

The workers' demands include settlement of the Piedras Picadas strike, the repeal of Law 95 modifying the Labor Code and legal recognition for bank workers.

A labor leader told ACAN-EFE that the emergency plan developed by the government during the past few months, creating thousands of jobs for the unemployed, is a good immediate solution to the problem, but that its consequences have been detrimental to the Labor Code because workers are receiving low salaries.

Butcher Speaks On Labor Status

PA231943Y Panama City Circuito RPC in Spanish 1720 GMT 23 Jan 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Philip Dean Butcher, Secretary of the Confederation of Workers of the Republic of Panama, has stated that as the Revolutionary Government has become stronger it has gradually abandoned the working class. The Confederation has sent a seven-point list of demands to Chief of Government Omar Torrijos. The workers are asking for the settlement of the 8-month strike at Piedras Picadas, the repealing of Law No 95 because it practically violates all Labor Code provisions, the creation of a court to hear layoff cases or a special [labor] court as part of the Supreme Court and the restructuring of the Supreme Court because its rulings have been contradictory, legal status for the banking employees union and certain solutions to unemployment and the high cost of living. The Fourth National Congress of Workers stated that it will not abandon the ship of the revolution and that the working class will accompany General Torrijos as he carries out his mission of achieving national and social liberation by defeating imperialist and local masters.

Station Sees Plus in Law

PA250318Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Jan 78 PA

[Station commentary]

[Text] Law 95 of January 1977 has not caused a loss in employment but, rather, increased it during the first 9 months of last year. Comptroller's Office figures based on monthly surveys of 500 industrial, wholesale and retail commercial establishments and service companies in the districts of Panama and Colon indicate that during the January-September 1977 period the rate of employment increased an average of 1.3 percent. The important fact of this increase is not the 1.3 percent in itself, which does not reflect a social impact due to its small size, although it does constitute an initial step in that direction. The important fact is that is transformed the tendency in employment from a yearly loss into a positive growth figure in 1977.

Using the January-September 1974 period as a base, the Comptroller's Office figures show a drop in the average employment figure of 2.52 percent and 4.07 percent for the same period in 1975 and 1976. It was not until September 1977 that there was turnaround in the employment figure with the increase mentioned previously. That increase occurred while real sales during the 9-month period did not increase in comparison to the previous 3 years. Observers concur that rising employment was due more to Law 95 rather than to the incentives implemented by the government at the beginning of last year, since a survey made by INDESA, a Panamanian consultation company, in March 1976 showed that 77 percent of those questioned replied that the manner in which the Labor Code was implemented was the factor which most influenced the reduction in private investments and, consequently, employment. This position was reaffirmed by the employment rate in relation to the gross national product which, according to preliminary figures, increased at the rate of 1.5 percent in 1977. This should have generated an employment increase of only 0.6 percent. The administrative flexibility promoted by Law 95 induced the private sector to increase the labor force, generating twice the normal increase. This increase is a positive sign since it should increase employment of those who are now unemployed and those who join the labor market every year.

UK SAID TO HAVE GIVEN UP ON QUICK SOLUTION TO PROBLEM

PL241735Y Belize City THE REPORTER in English 22 Jan 78 p 1 FL

[Text] Britain has abandoned her timetable to try to settle the Guatemalan dispute over Belize to beat the Guatemalan elections, which take place in about eight weeks time. As part of that same decision, the British foreign secretary, Dr David Owen, announced a cabinet decision not to sell a number of armed personnel carriers to the Republic of El Salvador.

In talks held in Kingston between Mr Ted Rowlands and the premier of this country, Mr George Price, Rowlands indicated that Britain would go for the longer haul in the hope that something new would emerge to offer a basis for negotiations.

The political implications of this decision is that the PUP [People's United Party] dream of independence has been pushed further into the background that Mr Price, having missed the boat, will be around to face national elections in 1978 or 1979.

The idea that the dispute could be settled quickly by President Kjell Laugerud before his term of office ended was first put forward by the Guatemalans themselves. But in recent weeks, it has become apparent that nobody in Guatemala--not the president, nor the congress nor both of them combined--can persuade the army to make the kind of settlement contemplated.

Things have gone too far, and in pre-election days the army wields enormous power.

The idea of settling the dispute in a hurry wasn't a very realistic one in the first place, and it is surprising that the British were persuaded to try.

The fact is that the Belize dispute had become a cause celebre among Guatemalan Army officers and a huge grab-tub for the administration, which votes large amounts of money each year for the programme.

Beside these two realities, the fact that President Laugerud would like to show something for his four years of office pales into insignificance.

EL SALVADOR

APPOINTMENTS OF UK CITIZENS AS CONSULS CANCELED

PA251326Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0340 GMT 25 Jan 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 24 Jan (AFP)--The Salvadoran Foreign Ministry announced today that Dave Montgomery and John Nash have been removed as consul and vice consul ad honorem of El Salvador in Great Britain.

Although no further explanation for the cancellation of these two appointments were given, political observers have pointed out that it stems from differences that arose in the British Parliament in connection with the Salvadoran Government's purchase of arms from Great Britain.

Montgomery is a member of the British Parliament and both he and Nash have been attached to the Salvadoran Embassy for years.

In the meantime, the Salvadoran Ministry of Foreign Affairs secretariat has decided that a diplomatic mission will be opened in Ecuador as of 15 February. Salvador Roblra Pleitez will be the first Salvadoran ambassador to that nation, it was officially announced.

BRIEFS

DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS--San Salvador, 13 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The Salvadoran Government has appointed Gerardo Guzman Alvergue as ambassador to Chile replacing Jose Mixo Fichsnaler who will be given another ambassadorial appointment in an unspecified South American country. The Salvadoran Foreign Ministry also announced that approval has been received for the appointment of Col Eduardo Casanova as ambassador to Paraguay. Casanova is currently ambassador to Guatemala. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1543 GMT 17 Jan 78 PA] Dr Guillermo Paz Larin, presently Salvadoran ambassador to Italy, has been named the new ambassador to Mexico. He replaces Col Fernando Sigui Olivares, who resigned. [San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 9 Jan 78 p 9 PA]

GUATEMALA

FOREIGN MINISTRY DENIES REPORTS OF AGREEMENT ON BELIZE

PA251506Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1450 GMT 25 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 25 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The Guatemalan Foreign Affairs Ministry today dismissed reports from London about an alleged partitioning of Belize between Guatemala, Mexico and the present inhabitants.

The Guatemalan foreign affairs minister confirmed that thus far no agreement has been reached between this country and Great Britain concerning Belize's future.

The Foreign Ministry insisted that what Guatemala has been claiming for a century from Great Britain is the return of Belize's entire territory of 22,000 square kilometers and not only a portion thereof.

New Belize Talks Announced

PA262003Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1918 GMT 26 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 26 Jan (LATIN)--Guatemalan Foreign Minister Adolfo Molina Orantes announced here today that Guatemala and Great Britain will resume formal negotiations on the future of Belize next month in Washington. In disclosing the continuation of the negotiations, the minister minimized the importance of dispatches from London indicating that a secret agreement between Guatemala and Great Britain had been reached. Molina Orantes added that Guatemala has territorial and not pecuniary demands, denying reports by THE GUARDIAN of London that Great Britain and the United States had set up a fund of 50 million pounds sterling to install a refinery in Guatemala in exchange for the country's renouncement of its territorial claims. The foreign minister said rumors that Belize had been divided into three, including one part for Mexico, were false. "In the border treaty of 1893, Mexico renounced all claims over Belize," the foreign minister said. He added to the press that the then Mexican foreign secretary, Ignacio Mariscal, had defended the treaty in the Senate and had shown that Mexico never had or exercised any sovereign rights south of Rio Hondo on the Mexican-Belizean border.

FOREIGN MINISTER EXPECTS U.S. TO RECONSIDER ARMS BAN

PA251202Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0035 GMT 25 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 24 Jan (AFP)--Foreign Minister Adolfo Molina Orantes said today that Guatemala expects the United States to reconsider its refusal to sell it arms. Molina's statement came after talks between President Kjell Laugerud and Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Terence Todman.

Concerning the Laugerud-Todman talks. Molina said that these dealt with matters of common interest. He added that on international affairs, they discussed respect for human rights. The foreign minister added that Guatemala maintains those rights in force and that the Congress will soon approve the ratification of the International Human Rights Convention.

LAUGERUD SAYS LEFTWING OBSTRUCTING ELECTIONS

PA211552Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0123 GMT 21 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 20 Jan (AFP)--Guatemalan President Kjell Laugerud declared here today that "the leftwing, through terrorism, is trying to obstruct the normal development of the electoral process."

The Republic of Guatemala will hold general elections on 5 March to choose a president, a vice president, deputies and municipal officials.

That has been the purpose of the latest kidnaping, Laugerud added, referring to the cases of government advisers Luis Canella and Roberto Herrera Ibarguen and industrialist Luis Arimany. The first one was murdered. The other two are still in the hands of the kidnapers.

Laugerud emphasized that the extremists were unable to obstruct the electoral process because the government "is guaranteeing that the elections will be held in the greatest climate of normality."

The chief of state discarded the possibility of declaring a state of siege.

PRESIDENT CLAIMS EGP IS 'STRICTLY CASTROITE' MOVEMENT

PA212314Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1929 GMT 21 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 21 Jan (AFP)--Guatemalan President Kjell Laugerud has said here that the illegal People's Guerrilla Army (EGP) is a "strictly Castroite" movement.

Laugerud noted that the communiques published recently as a condition to free Guatemalan state adviser Roberto Herrera Ibarguen, who was kidnaped 22 days ago, carry a picture of Che Guevara, Castro's comrade in arms.

"So there is no doubt," the president said, "where the EGP obtains all its support and even the structions as to what it should do and how and why."

The EGP has claimed credit for the kidnaping of Herrera Ibarguen, who is still being held by his captors, and also for the kidnaping of Luis Canella Gutierrez, another state adviser who was later shot to death.

RESCUED EGP GUERRILLA SEEKS POLITICAL ASYLUM

PA261932Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1400 GMT 26 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 26 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The Clandestine Poor People's Guerrilla Army (EGP) today announced that it had successfully rescued guerrilla Mario Dominguez from Mezatenango Hospital and had taken him to the Costa Rican Embassy to request political asylum. The announcement was made by EGP to local newspapers over the telephone, thus ending 2 days of suspense caused by the fact that no one knew for sure if Dominguez had been rescued or kidnaped. Danilo Zamora, Costa Rican ambassador to Guatemala, told ACAN-EFE regarding EGP's announcement: "I am not confirming or denying that the guerrilla is in our embassy." Dominguez, the only guerrilla who survived an armed clash between a group of rebels and the police in which three of his comrades and two police officers were killed, was recovering from several bullet wounds in Mazatenango Hospital.

Army Admits Officers Kidnaped

PA261933Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1440 GMT 26 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 26 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The Guatemalan Army today officially admitted the kidnaping of two military police officers who were posted to guard Mario Dominguez, who was rescued yesterday by his EGP comrades and taken to the Costa Rican Embassy. The armed forces issued a bulletin reporting that the army and the police are trying to locate the police officers and their kidnapers. To begin with, all vehicles traveling in the area under surveillance are being searched carefully at police control points at strategic locations.

Guerrilla at Costa Rican Embassy

PA261934Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1832 GMT 26 Jan 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 26 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Mario Dominguez, the guerrilla of the Poor People's Guerrilla army (EGP) who was rescued from Mazatenango Hospital and taken to the Costa Rican Embassy, is reported in serious condition.

Gonzalo J. Facio, Costa Rican foreign affairs minister, confirmed at noon today that Dominguez was in the Costa Rican Embassy and that he was in a very precarious state of health as result of wounds in his shoulder, sternum, and leg. According to Danilo Zamora, Costa Rican ambassador to Guatemala, Dominguez was rescued from the hospital by a commando operation and then taken to Guatemala City. The embassy's garage door was rammed by the jeep which took Dominguez to the capital and where he was left. Later, the EGP telephoned Ambassador Zamora to tell him that they had left Dominguez at the embassy and to inform him of his state of health. At the same time, they told him that he had to save his life or answer for his death.

Facio told ACAN-EFE: "Undoubtedly, this is a delicate and very singular case, inasmuch as our ambassador has been threatened." He added that he told Zamora to request the Guatemalan Government for safe conduct to take Dominguez to a hospital for treatment. If this is obtained and Dominguez can be saved, he would return to the Costa Rican Embassy pending a decision by Guatemala and Costa Rica. If Costa Rica grants him political asylum, then Guatemala would have to grant him safe conduct. Meanwhile, Facio has asked the embassy to gather all information on this case and to send it to his office to see if political asylum can be granted.

NICARAGUA

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON GENERAL STRIKE OVER CHAMORRO MURDER

University Students Stage Demonstration

PA2613442 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1333 GMT 26 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 26 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--At least 25 persons were arrested yesterday in this capital during a student demonstration in the city's southern district.

University students staged the march to demand justice in the assassination of newspaperman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro and to support the general strike, which today is in its 4th day.

The demonstration was intercepted and dispersed by military patrols. Six of the 25 persons arrested are women.

Decision on Chamorro Murder

PA2615422 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1503 GMT 26 Jan 78 PA

[By Piladelfo Martinez]

[Excerpts] Managua, 26 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--In a special meeting, the Nationalist Liberal Party (in power) has given its unrestricted support in the present Nicaraguan crisis to party and republic President Gen Anastasio Somoza.

The strike continued in Managua early this morning with very little traffic in the streets and avenues. The stoppage of the main productive activities in the country has begun to result in shortages of basic commodities. There is very little pasteurized milk, beef and bread. The government plans to remedy the milk shortage by permitting the sale of unpasteurized milk, which previously was not allowed. The Public Health Ministry has assumed responsibility for the hygienic condition of the milk.

There is also concern over the currency shortage due to the closure of banks in the capital and other cities of the country. It was reported that the government is vigorously attempting to normalize banking activities. Only the National Bank (state owned) has not joined the nationwide strike.

Not all gasoline stations have joined the strike. Despite the abnormal situation, some have continued selling gasoline, but there are long lines in front of the stations.

This morning, it was reported that Judge Guillermo Rivas, who is in charge of the assassination case, has handed down his decision in the first hearing. He ordered imprisonment for the crime of murder for the six persons implicated, including Pedro Ramos Quiroz, the U.S.-nationalized Cuban exporter of blood who is currently in Miami. Also included in the sentence is Silvio Pena Rivas, the ringleader and liaison with the plotters of the 10 January crime. Others are Domingo Acevedo Chavarria, who did the actual shooting of newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro; Silvio Vega Zuniga, who helped hire the killers; and Harold Cedeno Aguirre, the young delinquent who was with Pena Rivas. An arrest warrant was also issued for Juan Ramon Acevedo Medina, who was with the criminals on the day of the shooting. The case was left open for continued investigation of the murder because government officials and former government officials have been mentioned in the hearings.

Radio Reloj Report on Situation

PA261809Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpts] Today is the 4th consecutive day of the general strike in Nicaragua. Earlier today, President Somoza called an urgent meeting of all his cabinet members for 1100, which is now in progress. Opposition political parties yesterday showed they were ready for total unity. The entire nation of Nicaragua is against Somoza, asking for justice and an end to repression.

The people of Nicaragua have asked Somoza to resign. However, the Liberal Party pronounced itself in favor of its chief and told Somoza not to resign. Somoza is very sick, and apparently the General Staff is in command. Somoza has not wanted to receive newsmen, but a statement will be released this afternoon. Government [word indistinct] is now holding an emergency meeting, and the days of the Somoza dictatorship are numbered, according to what is being said in Nicaragua.

Nicaragua is experiencing very difficult days. Both taxi drivers and transport workers have said they would join the strike. Presently, there are very few vehicles on the streets of Managua. It looks like a deserted city.

However, a little bit of trust has returned to radio journalism in Nicaragua. Last night, the director of radio of the Nicaraguan Army held a meeting with radio newsmen to discuss the problems of reports about the strike. The Somoza government had issued orders to the effect that radio news programs would not be allowed to broadcast reports on the strike and ordered the closing of Radio mi Preferida. Finally, an agreement was reached by which each newscast would resume giving news, even about the strike, but not to subvert order--that is, not to cause violence. In addition, Radio Mi Preferida returned to the air this morning. This morning, the radio stations were broadcasting news programs normally.

Somoza Rejects Demand to Resign

PA261820Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Jan 78 PA

[Report by special correspondent in Managua Eduardo Elvir of Radio ABC--live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Broadcast in progress] and in open session of his cabinet for the purpose of taking urgent steps at any moment in connection with the situation in Nicaragua.

In the meeting, Somoza rejected as unacceptable the request to resign made yesterday by the Conservative Party of Nicaragua, which is a minority party within the government, and by the opposition Democratic Liberation Union.

Somoza said he already knew about this petition because it is the same one that the opposition was going to take to the national dialog which failed. But in any event, it is a situation that is incompatible with the constitution of the republic.

Meanwhile, this morning, university authorities were trying to obtain the release of several students who were arrested during a demonstration late yesterday afternoon in which several youths were beaten and injured. It was reported that 25 students were arrested, but that some have already been released after the payment in cash of considerably large fines.

Liberals Reaffirm Support for Somoza

PA2617O4Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1646 GMT 26 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 26 Jan--The governing Liberal Party said today that it fully supports President Anastasio Somoza in the present Nicaraguan crisis. Through its affiliated organizations, the party expressed its decision to take up arms alongside the army to maintain the contitutional system.

Meanwhile, the semigeneral strike in Managua and other important cities is continuing without incident. The army has orders to refrain from responding to aggressions while on patrol, despite the fact that last night two soldiers were injured by bottles hurled by students who are on guard at the university.

Vehicles continue to circulate as usual, but according to unofficial figures, 70 percent of large businesses and industries in Managua and 60 percent in interior cities are closed.

The government paper NOVEDADES announced today that the general strike is losing ground and thatimportant establishments have reopened.

The Army High Command has ordered gas stations to remain open under threat of being intervened. The refinery that supplies fuel to the entire country, which is located in Managua, is operating normally.

Banks Deny Strike Called

PA2617J2Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0330 GMT 26 Jan 78 PA

[Communique of the Central Bank of Nicaragua and Superintendency of Banks and Other Institutions--read by announcer]

[Text] The Central Bank of Nicaragua and the Superintendency of Banks and Other Institutions hereby inform the citizenry that the service of banks and financial institutions are of public interest according to Article 244 of the General Law on Banks and Other Institutions, and that, in observance of this disposition, the Association of Banking Institutions of Nicaragua has not called a strike in the banks of the system, which continue to conduct their activities.

[Dated] Managua, National District, 25 January 1978.

[Signed] Central Bank of Nicaragua, Roberto [name indistinct], president.

For the Superintendency of Banks and Other Institutions, [name indistinct], vice president.

Cabinet Declared in Permanent Session

PA2620S8Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2024 GMT 26 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 26 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--"The attitude of the opposition is nothing new and we had foreseen it ever since the national dialog was demanded," Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza said here today upon beginning a cabinet session at the military club. The Somoza regime is confronting the fourth day of a nationwide strike demanding effective justice in the case of the 10 January assassination of opposition newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal. An official communique of the Press and Information Secretariat of the Presidency states that the president, along with his government team, has declared "the cabinet in permanent session in order to take all the necessary and appropriate measures demanded by the situation until the strike ends."

In a brief statement, Somoza stressed that "the national dialog requested by the opposition was aimed at asking for things that cannot be fulfilled."

While Somoza meets with his ministers, many representatives of the private sector organi - zations were gathering at the Nicaraguan Development Institute (INDE) where they will meet in the next few hours to review the current status of the stoppage underway through- out the country. The Private Enterprise Council [COSIP] today received a letter from five radio station owners in which they expose the constant pressures to which they are being subjected by the National Radio and Television Office, headed by Col Alberto Luna. The stationowners, including the owners of "Radio Corporacion", Radio Mundial and Radio Preferida claim that they are being constantly asked to submit the news broadcast on their news programs, and ask COSIP to take them into consideration in the private sector meetings. The chambers of commerce, industries and construction, the Association of Hardware Dealers, the Cotton Growers Cooperative, the Nicaraguan Organi- zation of Publicity Agencies (ONAP), the customs brokers and other groups are represented in the Nicaraguan Development Institute offices. Before the meeting, it was rumored that the private sector might make a statement today on the resignation of President Anastasio Somoza, which was demanded yesterday by the political parties and labor organizations represented in the Democratic Liberation Union (UDEL) and by the Con- servative Party.

Meanwhile, Roberto Velez Barcenas, president of the Association of Distributors of Petroleum Byproducts, this afternoon said that a little over 50 percent of the 47 gasoline stations in Managua are closed and that the number is expected to increase in the next few hours.

State of Siege Discounted

PA262330Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2201 GMT 26 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 26 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--President Anastasio Somoza, faced with the greatest business community challenge of the last few decades, has decided to place his cabinet in permanent session in an effort to put an end to the strike that has partially paralyzed Nicaragua for the past 3 days. Official sources said that Somoza will not reimpose the state of siege in Nicaragua, but did not explain what "the necessary measures" would be which have been cited in the communique on the cabinet session. Somoza is reluctant to reimpose the state of siege since it was suspended in the middle of last year because of possible international repercussions.

Meanwhile, the strike called by business and union sectors continued with the same effect as during the 2 previous days. Today was characterized by a series of meetings of different forces. It was said that the striking businessmen and the bishops will also meet this afternoon to discuss the country's situation. Sources close to these talks indicated that these sectors may adopt a stronger attitude toward the government but declined to give further details. Many more police patrols were observed today in the area of the Eastern Market, where Managua's commercial activities are concentrated, due to the closing of the shops and supermarkets. Most of the almost 500,000 inhabitants of Managua receive food and staples from the Eastern Market. Prices are rising as the strike progresses. Elsewhere, UN officials in Managua met today with representatives of the Nicaraguan Human Rights Commission in an attempt to find a solution to the problem posed by the occupation of the UN offices by a group of mothers of "missing" political prisoners and peasants.

The secretary general of the commission, Esteban Gonzalez, presented Roberto Macchean--a Uruguayan --with documents detailing 400 instances of peasants who were arrested in the northern mountains and later disappeared. These are the same documents that the commission had planned to turn over to Terence Todman, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, who canceled his trip to Managua. The eight women, almost all of them peasants, also participated in the meeting, said the officials. After peacefully occupying the office yesterday, the women asked for international dissemination of the charges so "that practical results will be produced."

Radio, TV Director Issues Communique

PA261655Y Bluefields Radio Atlantico in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Jan 78 PA

[Communique of the National Directorate of Radio and Television--read by announcer; date not given]

[Text] The undersigned national director of radio and television, in view of the fact that persons acting anonymously are telephoning false instructions to broadcasting stations and that such calls only lead to uncertainty, discontent, unrest and confusion both for the management of these broadcasting stations and radio journalism, has resolved to advise you that, for communications of any kind, the National Directorate of Radio and Television will send an officer of the National Guard Communications Corps or will simply send a formal letter. I expect this measure to reestablish order and tranquility in your enterprises. Consequently, this will be beneficial for our daily activities.

[Signed] Lt Col Alberto Luna, national director of radio and television.

Private Sector Urges Somoza Resignation

PA262345Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2315 GMT 26 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 26 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--A total of nine private sector organizations today asked President Anastasio Somoza "to consider" the resignation requested by the opposition political parties.

Industrialists, businessmen, builders, customs brokers, cotton growers, advertisers, automobile distributors and hardware merchants issued the statement this afternoon after a lengthy meeting.

The private sector's leadership met at the Nicaraguan National Development Institute (INDE), while a large number of anxious businessmen awaited the results of the meeting. The statement by the nine private sector organizations says:

"The private sector organizations, in view of the resignation requests presented to Gen Anastasio Somoza by the opposition parties, and in view of the serious crisis affecting the country, unanimously urge the president, in a patriotic spirit of understanding, to give serious consideration to the constitutional means which could lead the country to permanent peace based on justice, freedom and democracy."

They say in conclusion: "We reaffirm our joint efforts to find a permanent solution for the good of the country."

ISIDORO MALMIERCA DISCUSSES FOREIGN RELATIONS

FL270017Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Cuban Foreign Relations Minister Isidoro Malmierca has asserted that our country does not have the slightest interest in establishing relations with the OAS. Malmierca is in Mexico at the invitation of his Mexican counterpart Santiago Roel. The Cuban foreign minister told a press conference that Cuba believes the OAS is against the interests of Latin American peoples and for that reason Cuba has no interest in establishing relations with it. He then called for seeking other paths for relations between states. In this regard, Malmierca said their contacts can be bilateral until the creation of institutions which cover specific areas of economic activities of the various Latin American governments. He mentioned the Latin American Economic System--SELA--as an institution linked to the future expansion of economic relations among our states. He added that since SELA was created recently it is logical for it to be facing difficulties.

Referring to military regimes in Latin America, Malmierca said that the Chilean military junta holds a prominent position among them, but he predicted that Chileans will defeat fascism and pave the way for the reemergence of a democratic regime.

Regarding resumption of relations between Cuba and the United States, the Cuban foreign minister said that it is quite clear for our people that U.S. policy, its aggressive nature and its intention to destroy the Cuban Revolution were the cause of the break in relations which, as neighboring countries, should have been normal.

CULTURE MINISTER HOLDS TALKS IN MOSOCW WITH SOVIET COUNTERPART

FL261812Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Cuban Culture Minister Armando Hart Davalos today met with his Soviet counterpart Petr Demichev. Cuban Ambassador to the USSR Severo Aguirre del Cristo, Culture Vice Ministers Quintin Pino Machado and Antonio Nunez Jimenez; and Raul Luis Castillo, cultural attache of the uban diplomatic mission, participated in the meeting. Hart arrived in Moscow yesterday at the head of a delegation invited by the USSR Culture Ministry. Hart and his entourage early this morning laid floral wreaths at the Lenin Mausoleum on Red Square and at the Monument to the Unknown Soldier.

MONTANE RECEIVES SERGEYEV-LED SOVIET DELEGATION

FL261959Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1904 GMT 26 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Jesus Montane, member of the PCC Central Committee and chief of its Department of Assistance to Mass Organizations, has received the delegation of the Soviet All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions. The delegation is headed by Vladimir Sergeyev, chief of the department of socialist countries, and includes Boris Nelyubin, section chief in the International Department of the Soviet All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions; and Aleksandr Popov, official in this department.

Viewpoints on the work of mass organizations, especially that of trade unions, were exchanged during the fraternal meeting. The Soviet delegation is in our country at the invitation of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers and is involved in a schedule of visits to work centers and meetings with leaders of the revolution.

AGRICULTURE MINISTRIES SIGN COOPERATION ACCORDS

FL270043Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Jan 78 FL

[Mario Gonzalez Valdes Telephonic Report]

[Text] An intergovernmental agreement between Cuba and the GDR on protection of plants within the framework of plant health was signed moments ago at the Riviera Hotel in Havana. A work plan for 1978 on direct scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries' agriculture ministries and a protocol on talks held by delegations from the two states on the production of potato and plant seeds and their complete mechanization, irrigation, livestock production, agrochemical services and animal and plant health also were signed. The documents were signed by Heinz Kuhrig and Rafael Francia Mestre, ministers of agriculture of the GDR and Cuba, respectively. Cuban Agriculture Vice Minister Lino Carreras and other Cuban and German officials attended the signing ceremony.

PANAMANIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY DELEGATION ARRIVES IN HAVANA

FL261806Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Jan 78 FL

[Text] A delegation from the Panamanian People's Party [PdP] headed by PdP Secretary General Comrade Dario Souza and Comrade (Luster Thomas), member of the Political Committee and responsible for international relations, has arrived in our country in response to an invitation of the PCC Central Committee. The distinguished visitors were received at Jose Marti International Airport by Manuel Pineiro, member of the PCC Central Committee and chief of its American department; and Fernando Comas, official of this department.

ALMEIDA BOSQUE TOURS GUANTANAMO PROVINCE

FL261428Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 26 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Juan Almeida Bosque, Politburo member and Council of State vice president, toured the principal social and economic installations which are being built in Guantanamo province. Accompanied by Alfonso Hodge, Central Committee member and Guantanamo Province party first secretary, Almeida visited the malleable and gray iron foundry, the clinic and surgery hospital of the province, some school centers, and the construction site of a vocational school.

HAVANA GOVERNMENT ASSEMBLY ELECTS PROVINCIAL JUDGES

FL262106Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2034 GMT 26 Jan 78 FL

[Text] The presidents of the provincial court and courtrooms and professional and lay judges of Havana Province have been elected during the Second Extraordinary Session of the Havana Province People's Government Assembly held at the Economic Management School. The 75 delegates, by secret and direct vote, elected Rogelio Gonzalez Alvarez as president of the Havana Provnicial Court and Hector Avila Prieto, Raul Lopez (Altierra) and Maria Perez (Rubalcaba) as presidents of courtrooms. Pedro Chavez, president of the Executive Committee of the Havana Provincial People's Government Assembly, made the closing remarks and conveyed congratulations to the elected officials from Justice Minister Armando Torres Santrayil. Chavez also noted the importance of being the first ones to be elected by the maximum government organ in Havana Province. He said this commits them even more to fulfill their assigned tasks.

TOP DIPLOMATS BEGIN REVIEW OF FOREIGN POLICY

FL241730Y Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 17 Jan 78 p 1 FL

[Text] The nation's top diplomats yesterday began their annual review of Guyana's foreign policy thrusts with a view to hammering out new strategies to meet the changing international arena. Prime Minister Forbes Burnham delivered the keynote opening address which will be the top policy statement the diplomats will consider at their week-long sessions at the Bauxite Industry Development Company (BIDCO) training centre in Queenstown. No official statement has been issued on the closed door conference, but at a recent meeting with the press, Foreign and Justice Minister Fred Wills, who is chairing the talks, identified the objectives as: examining foreign policy in terms of performance within official guidelines; and, examining the methodology being used to satisfy foreign policy goals.

Wills said he did not anticipate any major change in policy in the new year. He said there would be "continuity, in the sense that the objectives remain the same: anti-imperialism, non-alignment, promotion of economic development both in the internal sense and in the sense of changing the habitat in which you have to operate: the international order." "It is also security--that is, prevention of external aggression and internal unrest. It's also nation-building", he added.

It is believed that Guyana's relations with such major countries as the United States and the Soviet Union will also be high on the agenda along with such equally key issues as the state of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) of which Guyana is a founding member, and the non-aligned movement--of which Guyana is a bureau member. The diplomats are also expected to devote some time to relations with neighbouring countries, including Surinam. Wills also said that matters such as personnel changes and "shifts in track" would also be dealt with at the meeting.

HIGH-LEVEL YUGOSLAV DELEGATIONS BEGINS POLITICAL TALKS

Belgrade TANJUG in English 1910 GMT 25 Jan 78 LD

["Pool" item]

[Excerpts] Georgetown, January 25 (PL)--A high level Yugoslav delegation has begun political talks and discussion on bilateral cooperation with the leading party of the National People's Congress officials yesterday. The Yugoslav delegation, which arrived in Georgetown on Sunday, is headed by Munir Mesihovic, member of the Presidency of the Central Committee of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia. It was welcomed at the airport by Orville Willis, member of the PNC Central Executive Committee. Salih Nusi, member of the Secretariat of the Presidency of the Socialist Alliance of the Working People of Yugoslavia and Ronald Strelec, deputy head of the International Relations Department of the Central Committee of the League of Communistsof Yugoslavia, are among the members of the visiting Yugoslav delegation. Festus Brotherson, member of the Central Executive Council of the PNC and the Yugoslav ambassador to Georgetown, Milan Zupan, were also present at the airport upon the arrival of the Yugoslav delegation. According to an official Guyanese statement, the Yugoslav delegation, which has already visited several development centres, has come to Guyana upon the invitation of high Guyanese officials and within the framework of the Guyanese policy of non-alignment.

According to the statement, Yugoslav delegations have visited Guyana frequently. Recently the vice president of the Federal Executive Council, Dr. Anton Vratusa, was in this country.

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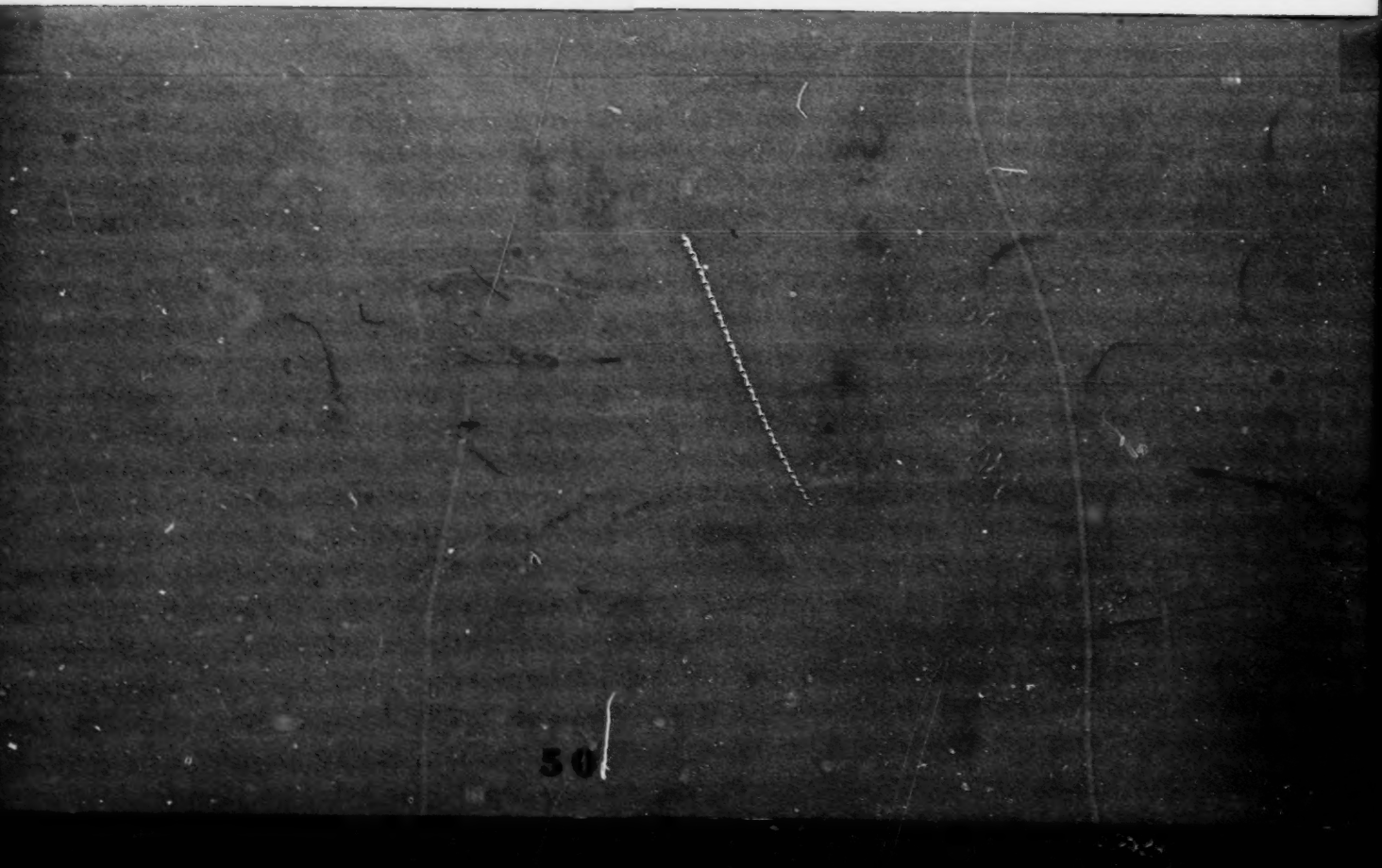
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